

West Boylston  
Centennial



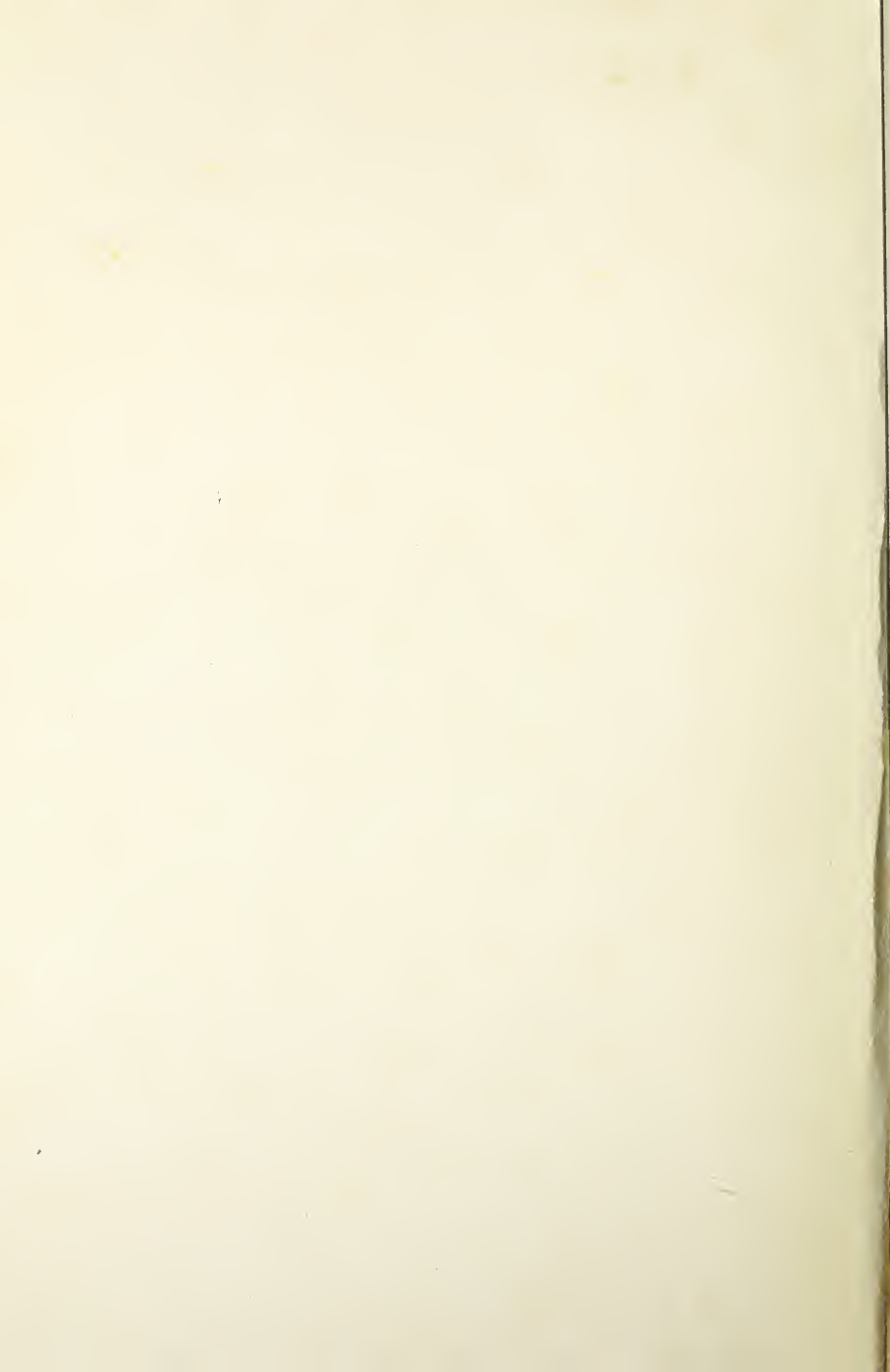
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West Boylston, Mass.  
Centennial Committee.  
Proceedings in connection  
with the one hundredth





# PROCEEDINGS

IN CONNECTION WITH THE

## One Hundredth Anniversary

### Of the Incorporation

OF THE TOWN OF

### West Boylston, Massachusetts

HELD IN THE TOWN HALL, THURSDAY

JANUARY 30TH, 1908, AND THE

## Centennial Celebration

HELD THURSDAY, JULY 16TH, 1908

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ALSO DEDICATION OF THE TOWN HALL

HELD MONDAY, JANUARY

18th, 1904

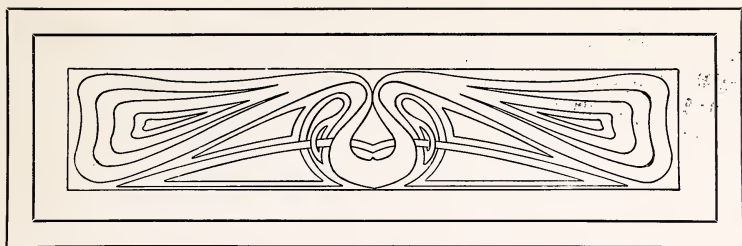
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PUBLISHED BY THE CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

1910

Allen County Public Library  
900 Webster Street  
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Fort Wayne, IN 46801-2270





## *INTRODUCTION*

The committee appointed at the Town meeting held March 25th, 1907, to whom was delegated the task of perfecting plans and carrying out a programme for celebrating the One Hundredth Anniversary of its incorporation; and to prepare, and publish in book form, the proceedings of the same, together with an account of dedication of the Town Hall in the year 1904;

Take pleasure in presenting the result of their labors and ask that it may receive charitable consideration.

During the One Hundred years of West Boylston's existence as a Town, many men of influence and strength of character have appeared among its citizens to direct and guide public affairs.

Industries have been erected, upheld and sustained through the skill and energy of able men. Citizens by the score could be selected who, for the important part they took in furthering the advancement and prosperity of the town, merit honorable mention in a summary of the achievements during the past century. But it certainly is beyond the charge delegated to this committee to present the names of any considerable number of those benefactors. It was thought, however, that a very few might be selected, not because of having connection with the official business of the town alone and their identity with the material advancement of the community, or because they enjoyed popularity to a great degree, but more especially for specific work they left behind them,—Historical data and in-

formation which would now be practically lost, had it not been for the marks of their pen; and which must prove during the years to come of untold value to the student who would learn of the early life among the families of West Boylston.

Centennial Committee:

W. B. WOOD  
LEON A. GOODALE  
DANIEL A. LYNCH  
WARREN E. GAMMELL  
WALTER E. CHAPMAN.

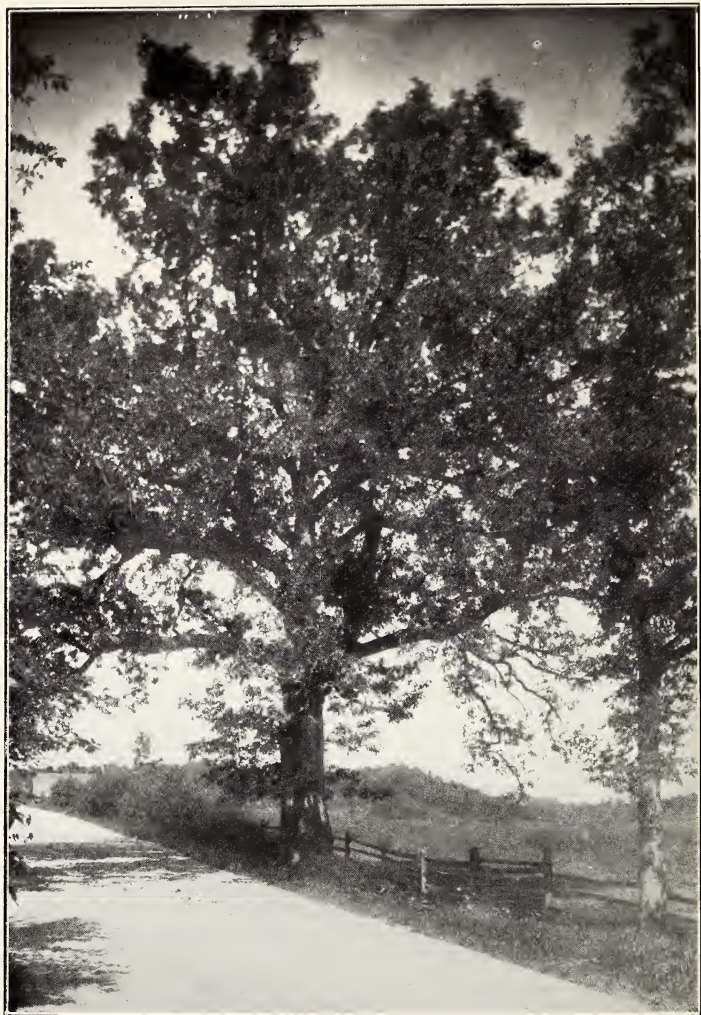


## MAJOR EZRA BEAMAN, THE FATHER OF WEST BOYLSTON.

To Major Ezra Beaman the inhabitants of West Boylston are more deeply indebted than to any other individual for the public benefits they enjoy as a corporate body.

Born in Bolton, Mass., October 16th, 1736; his father, Jabez Beaman, having purchased a large tract of land in the westerly part of the town of Shrewsbury, situated on both sides of the Nashua River, removed thence with his family in 1746. The father, Capt. Jabez Beaman, died Sept. 22nd, 1757, in his 53rd year; the mother, Dinah (Moore) Beaman, died Dec. 5th, 1774, aged 60 years, 11 months, 5 days; date of marriage, Oct. 4th, 1732. Ezra, the eldest son, coming into possession of the homestead, thought it necessary to take unto himself a wife, and June 1st, 1758, he married Persis, daughter of Cyprian Keyes of Shrewsbury, by whom he had six children. His wife died Nov. 7th, 1788, and he married 2d, Mary, daughter of Richard Boylston, who survived him; but died June 6th, 1813, aged 62. Major Beaman died June 4th, 1811.

Having been endowed with a remarkable spirit of enterprise, reinforced by sufficient energy and resoluteness to enable him to surmount almost every obstacle that stood across his pathway to success; and having withal, an excellent foresight, made Major Beaman throughout his business life a successful leader of men; and he readily gained the confidence of his neighbors and the people who knew him generally; no public work of any magnitude was undertaken in the town without first obtaining his approval. When the clouds began to gather along the political horizon, threatening a conflict with arms against the mother country, he was found on the side of the patriots and,



THE BEAMAN OAK  
REFERRED TO IN THE EARLY SURVEYS



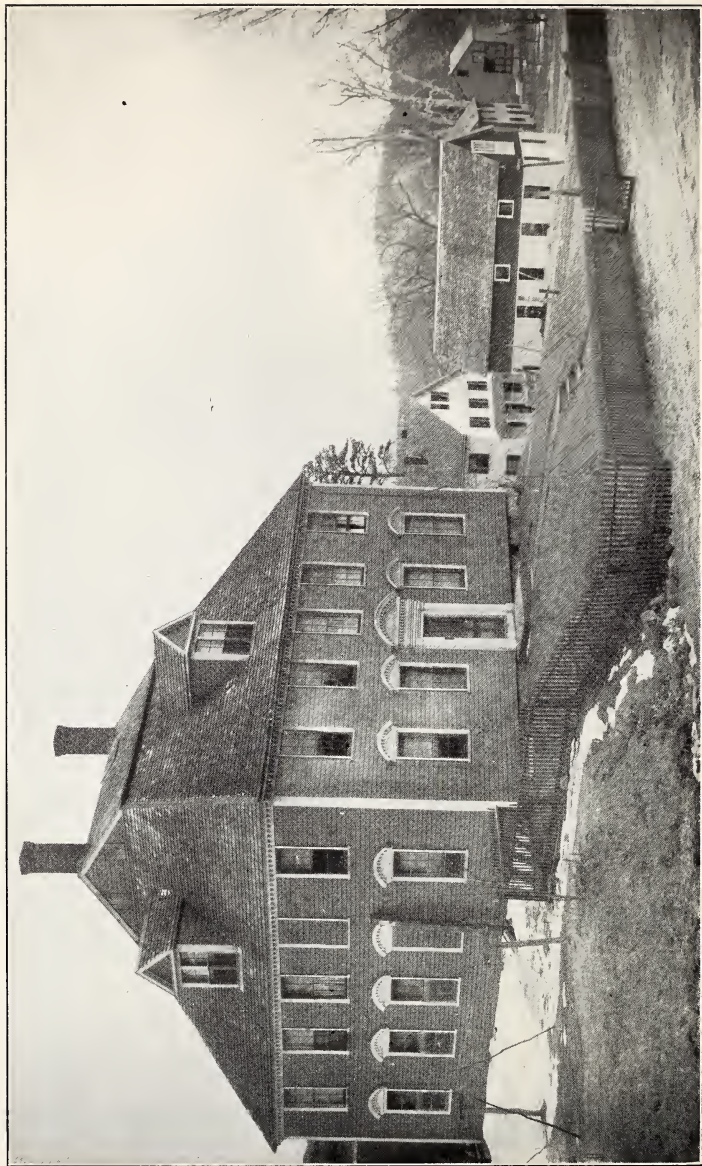
as captain, drilling a company of militia in the North Parish of Shrewsbury; preparing for the death struggle should it be forced upon the people. All through the war of the revolution he was faithful to the cause of liberty and the independence of the colonies. At the news of the Lexington alarm he responded to the call serving nine days as first lieutenant in the company from the 2d Parish of Shrewsbury, Robert Andrews, captain. On reenlisting, he was commissioned first lieutenant May 25th 1775, in captain Job Cushing's company, and was present and took part in the battle of Bunker Hill. He was ever untiring in his efforts to supply demands for men and means for prosecuting the war; serving as selectman, member of the committee of correspondence, safety and inspection, looking after the welfare of the soldiers in the field and various other public affairs of the town.

The dwelling house he built in 1764, which stood on the tract of land his father purchased, was a spacious, well appointed and well constructed building, known as the Beaman Tavern, which for a century served as a typical Wayside Inn, having been kept as a public house about that length of time by Ezra Beaman senior and his son Ezra. Subsequent to the battle of Bunker Hill and the construction of crude fortifications by the Americans, there came a lull in the strenuous activities of that army, and lieutenant Beaman sent colonel Ward the following communication:

“Dorchester, October 27th, 1775.

To Jonathan Ward, Esq., Commander of a Regiment of Foot  
in the Continental Army at Dorchester.

Sir:—Being required by Gen'l. Orders to make return in this way of my Design whether to continue in said Continental Army or not and being first Lieutenant of a Company whereof Mr. Job Cushing is Capt. in your Honors Regiment & therefore of little Importance, which is a strong argument for my being excused; notwithstanding am willing but Desirous to use and exercise the utmost of Endeavour to preserve and Defend the Rights & Liberty's of my Country both Civil & Sacred; yet the



THE MAIN PART OF THE BEAMAN TAVERN AFTER ITS REMOVAL FROM ITS ORIGINAL SITE

many Inconveniences & almost Impossibilities that attend my continuance in Sd Army urges in favor of my Dismission at the last of Decemb<sup>r</sup> next. Being assured that I can be ten fold more Serviceable to the Army being in my usual Business than present with it."

Am Sr Your Honrs most Obdt & Huml Servt.

EZRA BEAMAN."

It appears that his request for dismission was granted as the roll of the company reports him in service eight months from April 19th, 1775. And at the annual town meeting in Shrewsbury, in 1776, he was chosen one of its Committee of Correspondence, Safety and Inspection.

It is our pleasure to call attention to his official promotion in the military service by the following orders.

"To Samuel Andrews, Corporal

You are Required forthwith According to the Trust Reposed in me by Direction of the Commander of the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay, to Notife & warn all the Soldiers under my Command Living upon the southward side of the River above the Sear Bridge So called and thence to the meeting house all to the Road leading to Worcester; But Not on Sd Road; to Appear at the Meeting house in the Second Parish in Shrewsbury on Wednesday the 5th Day of June 1776, at two of the Clock in the After Noon with their Arms Compleat for exercise, there to attend further orders from myself or some one of their officers; hearof fail not & make Return of this warrant with your Doings thereon to myself or in my Absence to Lieut. Fawcett at or Before the Hour mentioned.

Given under my Hand and Seal this 28 Day of May.

Anno. do. 1776.

EZRA BEAMAN, Capt."

He having been commissioned Captain April 5th, 1776.

To Capt. Ezra Beaman or the Chief officer Present of said Company, Shrewsbury.

You are Required forthwith to Inlist into the Colony Service or Draft every 25th man in the Company under your Command





SITE OF THE BEAMAN TAVERN, SHOWING THE REMODELED ELL

Both of the training Band and of the Alarm List and see that they are aquipt With Arms and ammunion according to law and Ready to march at the Shortest Notice to Dorchester Hights, according to Resolve of Council of the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay at Watertown July 22 and make a Return of their Names so Inlisted or Drafted to me July 27 or on Monday morning July 29th.

Given under my hand at Grafton this 24th Day of July 1776.

JOHN GOULDING, COL.

On September 15th, 1776, Capt. Ezra Beaman was ordered through Col. John Goulding, to muster the company under his command and draft every fifth man according to a resolve of the Great and General Court of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay, and to make return to him by Tuesday night or Wednesday morning next.

June 16th, 1777, captain Ezra Beaman was commissioned a Major in the Sixth Worcester regiment, commanded by colonel Job Cushing of Shrewsbury. This regiment was sent forward to reenforce the northern army and took part in the battle that resulted in the surrender of general Burgoyne and his army.

It seems unnecessary to present further documentary proof of the active part taken by Ezra Beaman in the struggle for American independence. But we are quite sure that the public will more fully appreciate his civic services when the history of the incorporation of the town of West Boylston is fully understood. For that reason the following quotations on the subject are made:

To the inhabitants of the town of Boylston, Gentlemen:

The petition of the Subscribers Humbly Sheweth,  
That your Petitioners view the time as being near at hand when circumstances will admit of their enjoying Ecclesiastical privileges in a more conscientious, agreeable & in a much more convenient & enlarged manner than they have hitherto done, & being sensible that Religion, the basis of human happiness, is a natural concomitant of these privileges, we think it our duty to request that you would fully consent to our being incorporated into a separate Town, District or Society, as you think

most proper. We do not solicit this favor wholly with a view to promote our intrests, emolument or convenience, but for the good of a respectable number of our neighbors, the welfare of our own & their children & succeeding generations.

Your compliance or non-compliance with our request we do not consider as decisive of the cause we have undertaken; but we view it in your present power either to aid or oppose our pursuit of the object we aim at.

We now declare unto you, Gentlemen, that we do not wish to obtain the prayer of our Petition to you, or of a similar one to higher power, by any unlawful or unfair means; but by contrary means.

We are inflexibly determined to use our utmost efforts, because we are persuaded that our request is not only reasonable but that there is a fair prospect of our being separated from you. That is the case we think you will not deny. If so, will it not be consistent with your own & our Intrest to grant us our request. We think it will.

Consider your Petitioners as separate from you, and you will still be a respectable society, more numerous, of greater ability than many other Towns in this State. Is a forced connection with us worth contending for? Again, we ask what injury can you sustain by parting with us.

To this you may reply that your Ministers' tax will be a little augmented. This will not we think afford sufficient plea to withstand or even induce you to engage in an uncertain contest. These things, Gentlemen, we request you will wisely consider & your petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray.

EZRA BEAMAN AND 27 OTHERS.

This petition the town refused to grant and the following was sent to the Great and General Court:

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court Assembled.

Humbly shew the Subscribers your petitioners, agents for the second parish in Boylston, Holden and Sterling, in the County of Worcester, that the inhabitants of said parish are desirous that the Territory belonging to said parish may be constituted and incorporated into a District by some proper name and vested with all the powers and privileges which by law appertain and belong to Districts.



Your petitioners believe that the Happiness and Comfort of the Parish aforesaid will be promoted by an incorporation into a District, that their concerns will be managed with more facility, convenience & with less difficulty than in their present situation, that no possible injury can accrue to the towns of Boylston, Holden & Sterling or any other place, by your granting their request.

Confidently relying on the Justice & Wisdom of the Legislature they humbly hope that their petition will be granted and as in Duty bound will ever pray.

Jan'y 1807, EZRA BEAMAN	} Agents for and in behalf of the Parish in Boylston, Holden & Sterling.
JONATHAN PLYMPTON	
PAUL GOODALE	
WILLIAM FAIRBANK	

In House of Representatives  
July 23, 1807, Received & Committed to Committee on Towns.

Sent up for Concurrence. PEREZ MORTON, Speaker.

In Senate Jan'y 23, 1807, Read & Concurred.  
J. BACON, President.

The Committee of both Houses appointed to consider the application for the incorporation of Towns, &c., on the Petition of Ezra Beaman and others reported the following order which is submitted.

SALEM TOWNE, Pr. order.

#### COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

Ordered: That the petitioners cause an attested Copy of their Petition with this order thereon, to be served on the respective Town Clerks of the Towns of Boylston, Holden & Sterling, Forty days at least before the first Tuesday of the first session of the next General Court, that all persons may then appear and show cause (if any they have) why the prayer of said petition should not be granted.

In Senate, Jan'y 24th, 1807.

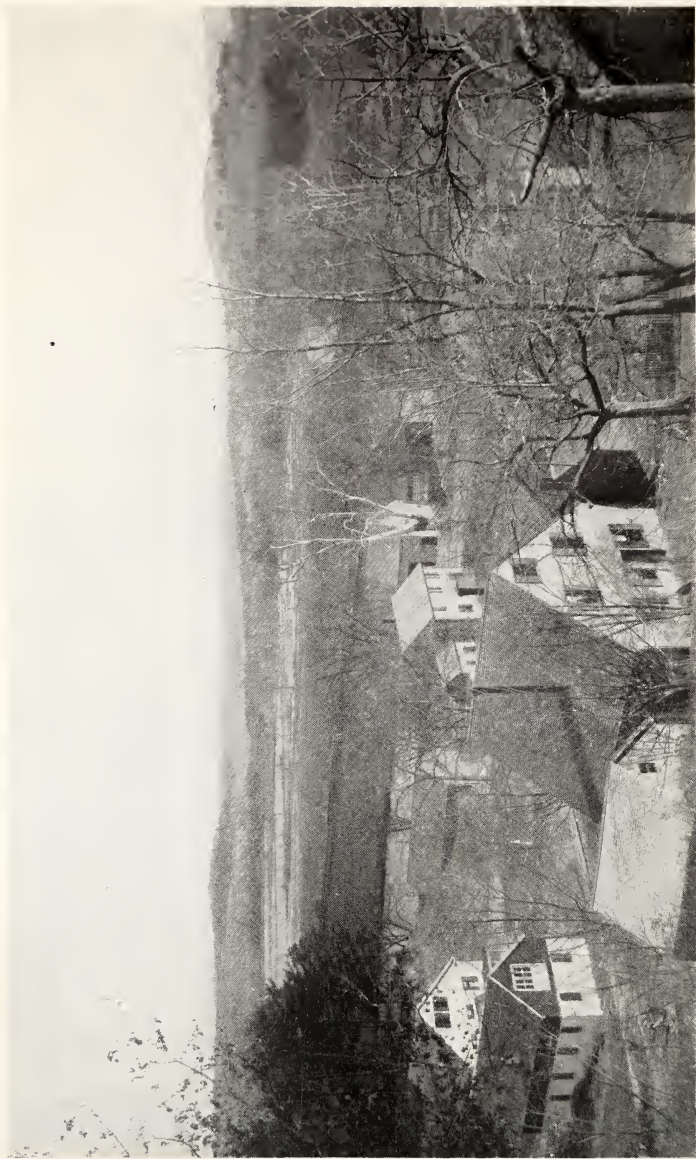
Read and passed. Sent down for Concurrence.

J. BACON, President.

In House of Representatives Jan'y 26th, 1807.

Read and Concurred.

PEREZ MORTON, Speaker.



OVERLOOKING PART OF THE BEAMAN FARM

A copy of this petition was served upon the town clerk of Boylston by Silas Beaman. A copy was served upon the town clerks of Holden and Sterling by Robert B. Thomas.

This petition brought out the following remonstrance:

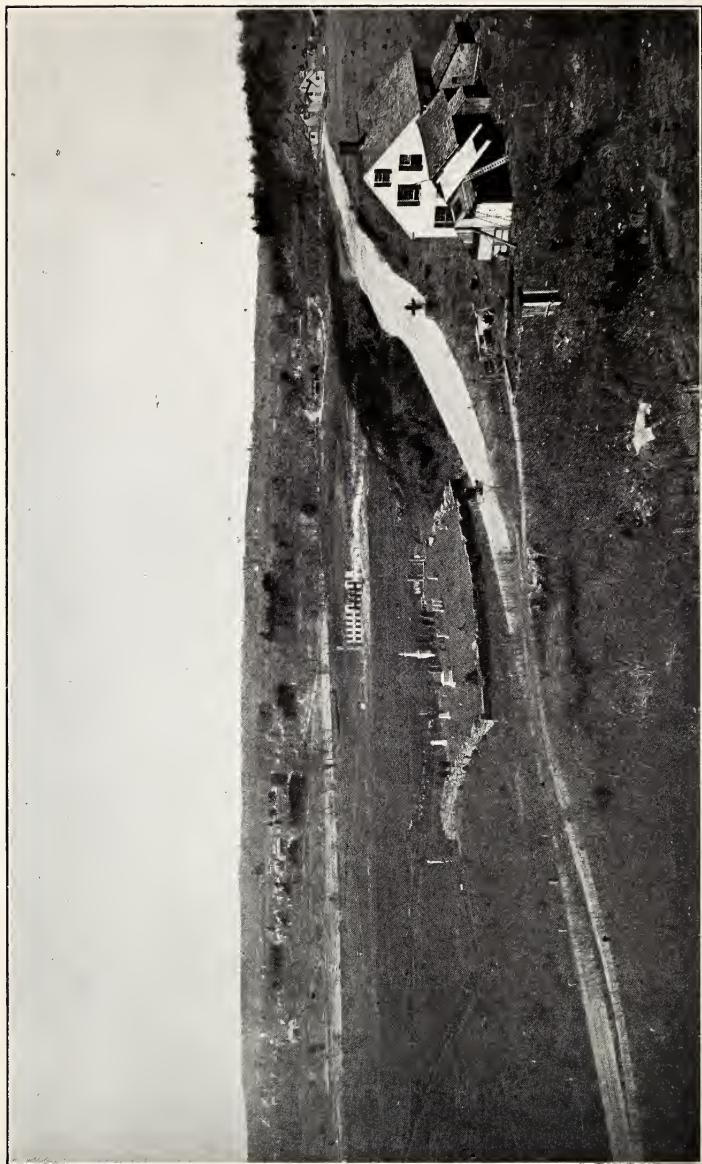
To the Honorable Senate & House of Representatives in General Court Assembled.

The inhabitants of the town of Boylston in the County of Worcester being cited on the Petition of Ezra Beaman and others to show cause why the second Precinct in the Town of Boylston, Sterling & Holden should not be Incorporated into a District: The subscribers, agents for said Town duly authorized & appointed for that purpose Respectfully submit to your consideration their answer to the prayer of said petition.

An unfortunate division having arisen in said Town, in the year 1794, relative to the location of a Meeting house, then about to be erected, a few disaffected individuals have from that period been indefatigable in their exertions to produce the dismemberment & eventually the total ruin of the Corporation. In pursuance of this object the leading petitioner availing himself of the power and influence derived from an ample fortune, erected a Meeting house at his own Individual expense within the limits of the present precinct, publicly proclaiming his intention to bring a separation as the most direct and certain means of destroying the Town. A petition was accordingly presented to the Legislature for the incorporation of a new Town to be composed of certain sections of the towns of Boylston, Sterling & Holden; on this petition the said towns were cited and their opposition having proved successful, the next effort was to obtain an Incorporation of the present Precinct. Not satisfied with the accomplishment of this purpose, a petition was soon after preferred for an enlargement of the precinct by lopping off another section of the said town of Boylston. The inhabitants were again cited and notwithstanding their strenuous opposition the object was effected.

Having thus gradually severed from the original Corporation by far the most valuable and fertile portion of the Territory & more than one quarter of the whole number of ratable polls, the remaining Inhabitants had flattered themselves that the enemy would "Cease from troubling" and that they should be permitted to enjoy in tranquility the privileges which had been left to them after this injurious encroachment.





BEAMAN CEMETERY, SHOWING WORK OF DESTRUCTION AND RUINS OF CLARENDON MILLS  
†Stamp of Beaman Oak

It being discovered however that the Town would survive the shock and that something more remained to be done before the Antient Corporation would be completely subverted, a new Project is devised & an attempt is now made. (with a spirit of obstinate perseverance for which our leading opponent is particularly distinguished) to convert the Precinct into a district more effectually to Impair our privileges and to accomplish this systematic work of Destruction.

Possessing advantages for an increase of population much superior to the first Precinct (from the better quality of their land & other local causes), it is calculated with confidence by the Petitioners that the ratable polls within the intended district which are now nearly equal will soon exceed in number those within the Town of Boylston. By thus bringing to their aid a small portion of the Inhabitants of Sterling and Holden (who will compose a part of the district) it is intended by our enemies inhabiting this disaffected section to deprive the Town of the important privilege of Representation. Such will be the Inevitable consequence of incorporating the petitioners into a district, Provided such district is attached to the Town of Boylston.

Such we know to be the object of their leaders because it has been openly avowed, and although the petition is silent on the subject of annexation they have publicly declared their intention to be annexed to the Town of Boylston.

With this impression, with an anxious desire to preserve our Corporate existance, to retain the privilege of representation fully & earnestly to remonstrate against the prayer of said petition, provided the District thus to be incorporated is to be annexed to the Town of Boylston of which we are Inhabitants.

At the same time we wish to be explicitly understood that all opposition on our part is withdrawn if it be consented on the part of the petitioners or is found expedient by the Legislature to annex the intended district to Sterling, Holden or any other Town in the County. For although we have most sensibly felt the injury resulting to us from the partial dismemberment of this small but once united & flourishing Corporation, yet our peace has been so incessantly disturbed by new projects of encroachment, and we have encountered so much trouble and expense in opposing these projects that we are now fully persuaded we shall never be at rest; that our existance as a Corporation will be in perpetual jeopardy until this troublesome and offending member is totally severed from the body which it thus threatens to destroy.

For the fourth time the Town of Boylston is now cited before the Legislature to answer to the petition of Ezra Beaman and others.

The object of each of these petitions has been most essentially to injure if not destroy us as a Corporation. Let Ezra Beaman and others become a Corporation totally detached from us, & whatever may be the evil we will patiently submit.

We trust with confidence in the wisdom of the Legislature to discern the object of the present petition, & we trust with equal confidence that they will be influenced by a desire of justice & a regard to the essential interests of a small but peaceable community, to refuse an act of incorporation annexing the proposed District to the Town of Boylston against the earnest wishes and settled opposition of every Individual who feels a solicitude to preserve our existance as a Corporation.

Boylston, May 26, 1807. JAMES LONGLEY  
ROBERT ANDREWS } Agents for  
AARON WHITE } the town of  
Boylston.

A remonstrance against annexation signed by Jonas Temple and sixty-one others was also presented to the Legislature, the principal argument being that it would affect the privilege of representation.

Some time afterwards agents of the town of Boylston and of the precinct in Boylston, Holden and Sterling, met and signed articles of agreement, Article 1st of which was as follows:

“It is agreed that the Precinct shall be incorporated into a town.”

In due course the Legislature granted the prayer of the petitioners and the following act of incorporation was issued.

**An act to incorporate a part of the towns of Boylston, Holden and Sterling, into a separate town, by the name of West Boylston.**

Sect. 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That the tract of land, described within the following boundaries, with the inhabitants thereon, be, and they are



hereby incorporated into a separate town, by the name of West Boylston, viz.:—Beginning at a black birch tree, on Shrewsbury line, at the south end of the center line of Malden farm, so called; thence, on said center line, to a corner of the second precinct in Boylston, near the dwelling house of Reuben Dunton; from thence, following the line between the said first and second precincts in Boylston, to Sterling line; thence, on Sterling line, to a heap of stone, a corner of said precinct; thence angling as the line now runs, between the first and second precincts in said Sterling, to Holden line; thence, from said Holden line, one hundred rods, to a heap of stones, a corner of said first and second precincts in Holden; thence on the line between the said first and second precincts in Holden, to an apple tree, on Worcester line, near the dwelling house of Artemas Bartlett; thence, angling on the town lines of Worcester and Shrewsbury, to the first mentioned bound; And the said town of West Boylston, shall have and exercise all the rights, powers and privileges, and be subject to all the duties which appertain to other towns, according to the constitution and laws of this Commonwealth.

Sect. 2. And be it further enacted, That any persons, with their families and estates, who dwell within the limits of the said town of West Boylston, and who were not originally incorporated in said second precinct, by the provisions in said act, and who shall choose to belong to the town to which such persons now belong, and shall certify such choice in writing, to the clerk of said town of West Boylston, within six months from the first Monday in March next, such persons, who so certify, shall continue to be inhabitants of such towns respectively, according to such choice.

Sect. 3. Be it further enacted, That the inhabitants, dwelling within that part of the town of Sterling, which is by this act made part of the town of West Boylston, shall have their equal proportion of all the public property of the town of Sterling, (excepting real estate, weights and measures) and shall pay their proportionate part of all the state, county and town taxes, and other taxes and debts due from the town of Sterling, previous to the first Monday of March next, according to the proportions in which they have heretofore paid all public taxes and town debts and the said inhabitants shall support their due proportion of the poor persons, who are now supported by the town of Sterling; And that any person who may have gained an inhabitancy at any time before the said first Monday of March next, within that part of either the said towns, which is by this act incorporated into the town of West Boylston.

and who shall hereafter need to be supported as poor persons, shall be supported by the town of West Boylston. And in the future proportion of state taxes, until a new general valuation shall be made, twenty-seven cents shall be taken from the town of Sterling, as it stands in the aggregate, and set to the town of West Boylston; and the pay of representatives shall be adjusted in the same proportion, until this act shall be in force.

Sect. 4. Be it further enacted, That all that part of the town of Holden, which is by this act made part of the said town of West Boylston, shall not be entitled to any part of the public property of the town of Holden, nor chargeable with any part of the expense of supporting those poor persons who are now supported by said town; and any person who hath, or who may hereafter gain an inhabitancy or settlement in that part of Holden, which is by this act made part of the town of West Boylston, shall be supported by the said town of West Boylston; and all monies now raised, or which may be hereafter raised, for public purposes, and all tax bills, which may be sent by legal authority, to said town, before the first Monday in March next, shall be assessed and paid in the same manner as though this act had not passed. And in the future proportion of state taxes, previous to a new general valuation, there shall be seventeen cents deducted from the town of Holden, as it now stands in the aggregate, and set to the said town of West Boylston. And the expense of representative, until this act shall be in force, shall be paid by the said towns of Holden and West Boylston, in the same proportion which they have heretofore paid.

Sect. 5. Be it further enacted, That the said town of West Boylston shall receive and support four tenths of the poor persons now chargeable to the town of Boylston; and that they shall receive the same proportion of all the military stores, and of all monies in the treasury of said town, excepting the donation from Ward Nicholas Boylston, Esq., as a fund for the support of schools in said town. And the said town of West Boylston shall pay their proportion of all debts and taxes now due, and owing by the said town of Boylston, previous to this act being in force; and until a general valuation shall take place, of the proportion in the state tax, seventy-six cents shall be taken from the town of Boylston, as it stands in the aggregate, and set to the town of West Boylston; and the expense of representative, shall be paid in proportion in which it has been heretofore paid.

Sect. 6. Be it further enacted, That the provisions in the fourth section of this act, concerning inhabitancy, shall have an equal and uniform effect and operation, alike to the several towns mentioned in this act.

Sect. 7. Be it further enacted, That either of the justices of the peace for the county of Worcester, be, and he is hereby authorized to issue a warrant, directed to some inhabitant of the town of West Boylston, requiring him to notify and warn the inhabitants thereof, to meet at such time and place as shall be appointed in said warrant, for the choice of all such officers as towns are by law empowered to choose at their annual town meetings.

Sect. 8. Be it further enacted, That this act shall be in force, and operate on the first Monday of March, which will be in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and eight.

(This act passed Jan. 30, 1808.)

## **ACTION TAKEN BY THE TOWN FOR CELEBRATING ITS CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY.**

The citizens of West Boylston, Massachusetts, with commendable public spirit, out of respect for those who have left the imprint of worthy deeds upon the pages of the Town's History; and through their thoughtfulness and generosity erected monuments for the use and benefit of those who succeeded them;

Therefore as a slight token of gratitude for the public benefits thus made possible; Voted in Town meeting assembled, to celebrate in some proper manner the One Hundredth Anniversary of securing the act of incorporation of the Town.

### **VOTE OF THE TOWN.**

#### **MEETING OF MARCH 25, 1907.**

Voted that a committee of five be appointed by the Moderator to make such plans and final arrangements as it may deem necessary for a celebration of the centennial anniversary of this town; and that Two hundred dollars be raised and appropriated for that purpose.

The Moderator, Frank H. Baldwin, appointed Leon A. Goodale, W. B. Wood, Warren E. Gammell, Daniel A. Lynch, Walter E. Chapman.

#### **MEETING OF MARCH 23, 1908.**

Voted to appropriate One thousand dollars for the further celebration of the centennial of the town, the money to be expended by the Centennial committee some time in July.

#### **MEETING OF MARCH 22, 1909.**

Voted to leave the matter of publishing the proceedings connected with the centennial exercises in the hands of the Centennial committee, said committee to sell the copies at its discretion, and Five hundred dollars was appropriated for the same.

The Centennial committee organized with W. B. Wood, chairman, Daniel A. Lynch, secretary, the other members being Leon A. Goodale, Warren E. Gammell, Walter E. Chapman.



## ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY,

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1908.

The Town Hall had been appropriately decorated, under direction of Mr. Daniel A. Lynch, and all things were in readiness for the opening exercises. The weather was clear and cold proving rather severe for some of the elderly people to face, although there was a fair representation of them present at two o'clock in the afternoon when the call to order came; notably, Mr. Gardner Emmons Goodell, of Worcester, formerly of this town, also Thomas Lynch, Thomas N. Keyes, Jonathan M. Keyes, William W. Keyes, Ashley H. Wood, Calvin Warner, Jonas Muzzy, Lovell A. Lesure, Mrs. Lucretia Morse, and Mrs. Martha Newton, all over seventy years of age.

When Mr. W. B. Wood, chairman of the committee arose to call the assemblage to order, the hall was well filled; and after the two selections announced on the programme had been rendered by the orchestra, prayer was offered by Rev. Ernest A. Royal, pastor of the First Baptist church, and the succeeding numbers on the official programme were rendered as they appear.

# ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

Incorporation of the Town of

# WEST BOYLSTON

HELD AT THE TOWN HALL

Thursday, January 30, 1908



AT TWO O'CLOCK  
IN THE AFTERNOON



WEST BOYLSTON :: :: MASSACHUSETTS



## Centennial Committee

W. B. WOOD

LEON A. GOODALE

WARREN E. GAMMELL

DANIEL A. LYNCH

WALTER E. CHAPMAN

---

## Music Committee

FANNIE A. HAIR

CHARLES W. REED

---

## Reception Committee

ALBERT W. HINDS

AARON GOODALE

WALDO B. HOWE

GEORGE W. REED

WILLIAM P. CHASE

JOSEPH M. LORD

EMORY A. BACON

G. HARVEY KEYES

ARTHUR SCARLETT

---

## Ushers

FRANK H. BALDWIN

WILLIAM T. HOLMES

WILLIAM J. BURNS

ARTHUR L. BOSWORTH

ARTHUR H. SAWYER

# Programme

---

MARCH—"Colonel Donovan," . . . *Strachan*

STRACHAN'S 9th REGIMENT ORCHESTRA, of Boston

OVERTURE—"Pique Danm," . . . *Suppé*

ORCHESTRA

PRAYER

REV. ERNEST A. ROYAL

ADDRESS OF WELCOME

LEON A. GOODALE

READING OF ACT OF INCORPORATION

ROGER M. LOVELL

CHORUS—"In Days of Old"

HIGH SCHOOL

ADDRESS

HON. JOHN R. THAYER

SONG—Shadow Song from "Dinorah"

MRS. JEANNIE CROCKER FOLLETT

SELECTION—"Mayor of Tokio," . . . *Ludero*

ADDRESS

JUSTICE ARTHUR P. RUGG

SONGS-- (a) "Christmas Carol of Birds," *Chaminade*

(b) "Oh, that we two were Maying," *Nevin*

(c) "My Lovely Child," . . . *Lehman*

MRS. MARGARET GUCKENBERGER

# Programme

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## ADDRESSES

WARREN GOODALE

HENRY F. HARRIS

## ZYLOPHONE SOLO

HARRY F. CADE

## ADDRESS

HON. EDWARD A. COWEE

- SONGS—(a) “Mattinata,” . . . . . *Tosti*  
(b) “Cradle Song,” . . . . . *Gaynor*  
(c) “April Morn,” . . . . . *Batten*

MRS. FOLLETT

## ADDRESS

JOHN S. LYNCH

## POPULAR SELECTION—“Shapiro’s Hits,” *Shapiro*

ORCHESTRA

## SONG—“Schwer liegt auf dem Herzen”

MRS. GUCKENBERGER

## ADDRESS

WALTER D. ROSS

## NATIONAL SELECTION—

“Tone Pictures of the North and South,” *Bendix*

ORCHESTRA

## ADDRESS

LOUIS CUTTING

## FINALE—“National Emblem,” . . . . . *Bagley*

ORCHESTRA



A GENERAL VIEW OF WEST BOYLSTON OVERLOOKING THE WORCESTER AND NASHUA R. R. TRACKS



## ADDRESS OF WELCOME BY LEON A. GOODALE.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN :

We have met today to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the incorporation of the Town of West Boylston.

In the celebration of a birthday it is customary to cordially greet the guests, to heartily welcome the visitors and to show hospitality to all the friends. We want to impress upon each of you today that West Boylston sincerely extends these tokens to all who gather in her honor. And while this word of greeting is said to those of you who are gathered here to participate in these exercises, it is extended also to those who are prevented from being present but whose thoughts today are of their old home town.

There are a few words which the Centennial committee would like to say to you in regard to these exercises.

We have planned today's programme as a suitable observance of the centennial day. It is not intended to cover the larger centennial celebrations which we shall recommend later to be carried out at a more seasonable time of the year.

We have tried, however, to set the standard so high that the event later will exceed this in magnitude only.

It is not my purpose at this time to indulge in any lengthy remarks upon the history of our town.

In order, however, to have a proper understanding of today's significance there are certain features which I shall try to point out to you with a plain statement of facts.

It is generally believed that the territory now West Boylston was settled about 1720, that is, it had been inhabited nearly a century before it became this town. It embraced parts of the old towns of Lancaster, Shrewsbury and Holden. Here the



early settlers established their homes in the wilderness far from the protection furnished by their home towns.

The boundary lines, too, were changing so that in many cases it is difficult to say in just what town a man was residing at a given date.

At the time of the Revolutionary War most of the town's area was embraced in the towns of Shrewsbury and Holden.

The portion belonging to Shrewsbury was part of its North Parish which was later incorporated into the town of Boylston.

We look therefore to Shrewsbury's North Parish, to Holden and to Lancaster to learn of the part our people played in this great contest. And it is with pride that we can point out a goodly number of our early inhabitants who not only responded as Minute Men on April 19, 1775, but who throughout the contest were staunch supporters of the cause of liberty. This was perhaps the more remarkable when we stop to consider that the Rev. Ebenezer Morse, pastor of our church, that is, of the Shrewsbury North Parish, was a staunch Tory and exercised all his great influence in behalf of the British king. So strong was the minister in his belief that it was not until a committee was appointed to disarm him and keep him from his pulpit that he finally subsided.

During this exciting period one man stands out preeminent in our community. A selectman of Shrewsbury as well as an officer in the army, Ezra Beaman was the central figure around whom all gathered. Possessing all of the qualities of a leader as well as great wealth he became the determining factor in this vicinity.

Largely through his efforts the North Parish of Shrewsbury was incorporated into the town of Boylston in 1786, and he became chairman of its first Board of Selectmen.

A few years later the church in Boylston having burned, he advocated having a new one built a half mile nearer the future West Boylston. In this he was unsuccessful and thereupon rallied the inhabitants of the west part of Boylston and others from Sterling and Holden and built a church on our present common, which was dedicated January 1st, 1795.

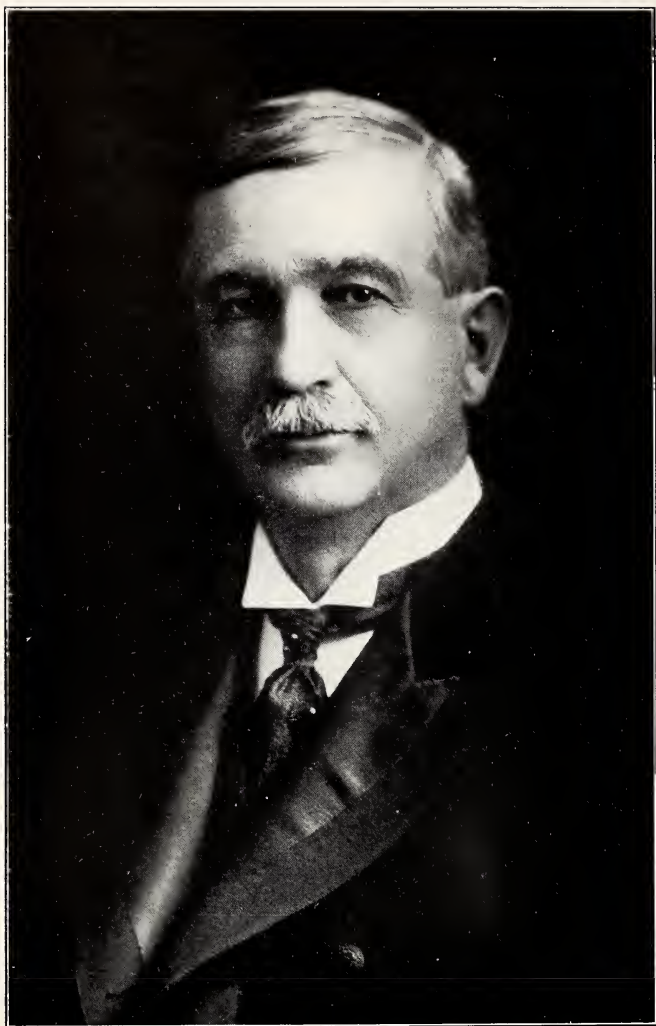
The contest was then started which resulted in the formation of the Second Precinct of Boylston, Sterling and Holden and finally on January 30th, 1808, in the incorporation of this town.

Naturally we find that Ezra Beaman was chosen chairman of the first Board of Selectmen as well as town treasurer and representative.

While it is probable that sooner or later the town of Boylston and West Boylston would have separated, on account of the natural division of the two, had there been no Maj. Beaman, yet he was the man to accomplish the result and to whom belongs the title of father of the town.

That you may more fully understand the nature of the document which created the town we will now ask one of our boys, Roger M. Lovell, a great-great-great grandson of Maj. Ezra Beaman to read the act of incorporation.

The Act was then read.



HON. JOHN R. THAYER  
FORMER MEMBER OF CONGRESS



## ADDRESS BY HON. JOHN R. THAYER.

There are certain epochs in the history of nations, countries and states which always attract to themselves a lasting interest. They fix a viewpoint in the progress or doctrine of state or empire at which we involuntarily pause to take the bearings to look back upon the past and to attempt to penetrate the veiled future. Our imaginations embody the time, the place, the circumstances, and fancy we breathe the air and spirit of the age itself. We gather up the fragments of facts as history or tradition has scattered them around us.

Of memorable events, few awaken a more lively interest or greater consideration than the origin of states and nations. Each member of the human race is anxious and curious to know from whence he sprung, from what particular race, under what circumstances, and for what purpose in the order of the universe. He who may look back upon a long line of illustrious ancestors, cannot forget that the blood stirring in his own veins is drawn from a common source, and that the light, reflected by their virtues, casts upon his own path a cheering radiance.

And he, who may not claim kindred with the illustrious dead, yet feels that they are the common inheritance of his country, or state, and that he has the right to share in their fame and triumph in their achievements. And it should not be assumed that this propensity of our nature is attributable to the indulgence of more personal or local vanity. It is of a higher and nobler origin; it is closely interwoven with the reverence and affection with which we regard our parents and the patriarchs of our own time—the natural respect for and veneration of the aged. The toils, the hardships, the inconvenience of early settlements, the patience, the fortitude and sagacity displayed,

these all furnish lessons which go far to help us in our everyday life.

One of these epochs to which I have referred, in miniature form I confess it may be, we have gathered here this day to consider and to study. In the multiplicity of events and activities of a nation, or even of a state, the celebration of the centennial anniversary of the birth and founding of a small New England town attracts but little attention and little public comment, but to you sons and daughters of the founders of this town and you who, by adoption, have become members of the common household, heirs and joint-heirs of the blessed inheritance of the last century, which has been handed down from generation to generation for these hundred years, look upon this centennial anniversary of the founding and incorporation of your town of West Boylston as a red-letter day in your lives and as a conspicuous and illustrious epoch in the history of this community.

There is depicted upon your every countenance an earnest desire to hear and understand every fact, event and incident in detail which contribute to make up the history since the incorporation of West Boylston an hundred years ago. It naturally requires a native of the town, or one who has sprung from the loins of a first settler, to perform this task most acceptably, one who might recite much in your local history which may have been forgotten, recall incidents and events not generally known, and stimulate you to action and aspirations worthy of the memory of an honored ancestry.

I cannot claim this much-coveted distinction. I am not of this manor born, despite the fact that some political wags have industriously, in time past, circulated the report that I have claimed to have been born in nearly every town in the Third Congressional District. If there ever was a time when I would be induced to so far trench upon fiction as to claim I was born anywhere but in old, rocky Douglas, this is the time and the occasion when I would attempt to palm myself off as having sprung from the Ezra Beaman stock, or some other of the original founders of this town.



But I must forego this distinction and this honor and openly confess that, instead of being a native or an adopted son of West Boylston, I am simply a stranger within her gates, and but slightly acquainted with her people or the history of the founders of the town, and the great progress and development which has been witnessed here during the hundred years since the incorporation of your municipality. And, while I cannot, as a son of West Boylston, enter with the same spirit of filial love, affection and reverence into the festivities of this day, as the native and adopted sons and daughters of West Boylston do, I can compliment and congratulate the inhabitants of the town upon their determination and purpose to fittingly celebrate this centennial anniversary.

The average citizen, absorbed in strife for the possession of the present good and the present dollar, or in tireless pursuit of a better future for himself or his, too infrequently avails himself of the opportunity to look back into by-gone days and acquaint himself with the conditions, the cause and effect out of which the present day came. He is like the runner referred to by St. Paul of old, "Forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth to those which are before, he presses toward the mark for the prize of his high calling." He is too busy in working and planning for the needs of the present and laying up stores for the future, to give a day, or even an hour, in retrospect, considering events, history and policies which cannot be changed. The realities, activities and demands of American life permit too few backward views. And yet, we must all concede that so truly and with such constancy does history repeat itself that there are no safe beacons for the future without light from the experience of the past.

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To what better purpose then can the sons and daughters of this town better devote a brief time than to the earnest and thoughtful contemplation of the ways and means, the thought and service, out of which the great present has come, and to bring into being again and into the mind and imagination those

courageous first settlers—the heroes, the statesmen, the tillers of the soil, the preachers of the gospel, the teachers of the youth, the builders of the highways, the mills, the schoolhouses and the churches in the first and early times of this town—to review and contemplate the customs, the ordinances, the polity and everyday life of that sturdy civilization which, not only laid the foundation deep and wide for the mighty growth and development of New England towns, and especially of this distinguished town, but mingled with that of a similar nature in other towns and cities of the broad expanse of the American continent, subdued a country of wild waste and barbarism, revealed the majestic resources of our country and advanced our free Republic abreast of those grand old nations of Europe, from whom it is our privilege to trace an honorable descent.

These centennial celebrations tend to keep united that thread of historic continuity which is important in all civilized lands, not only among nations and countries, but among states, towns and families.



West Boylston was incorporated by Act of Legislature, January 30th, 1808. Its population did not exceed 600 and it contained less than 100 houses, with ratable polls of less than 160, while it required 150 to entitle a town to a representative in the General Court. She had the required number with six to spare. Her population consisted chiefly of farmers, either owning and operating farms, or engaged in the farming industry for others. There were only about twelve mechanics, three merchants, one minister, one tavern-keeper and a few laborers in various occupations. There was one small cotton mill, two grist-mills, two saw-mills, one cider mill, one tannery and four blacksmith shops.



If I have read aright the history of West Boylston, the idea of equality among her people was one of the prominent corner-stones upon which the town was built, and upon which it rests

today. In some of the sister towns of Massachusetts, an aristocracy both in church and state was not only asserted, but in large measure recognized. But not so in West Boylston.

The people here in the earlier, as well as in the more recent times, believed in the justice and necessity of securing for themselves, and for those who should come after them, an equal right before the law in every essential phase of life, and the principle came to be a solemn article of faith. They insisted from the beginning that there should be no "chosen people", that here there was no room for a self-assumed aristocracy. Whoever came to join those who had a few years preceded them were made to feel, and to realize, that here was the adopted home of the free-men, that the land, the rivers, the schools and all the institutions, with their sacred privileges, were not for the few, but for all.

The fathers, in their time, and the sons, in theirs, detected from afar the first approach of anything like an exclusive spirit and attempted monopoly in society or in business, or in any form of power which tended in the least degree to subjugate one man to the will of another; but in honor only preferring one another. Here was presented a good example of pure democracy, except in its political sense, and here it has remained to the present time.

We linger to listen to the grand, though simple, story of the first settlers. That fascinating touch of the mind, which idealizes and glorifies the past, made so intensely interesting by the toilsome, sacrificing, frugal, but dignified, life of those venerated fathers of this community, who lived in touch with the very heart-throb of nature, and because of that touch, it sometimes seems to us that we know them better than we know those of the present. The simple cottage, the crude and in-artistic home are more interesting to us than the more spacious mansions of today. The early windmill and water-wheel are more interesting to recall than the air-ships and steam-engines. We prefer to reproduce in our imagination the old stage-coach,

the wooden plough and saddle-bags than look upon the steam and electric cars, the automobiles and telephone appliances.



West Boylston is one of the younger towns of the state, and, while she put in an appearance rather late in the sisterhood of towns in this county, she lays claim to having sprung directly and indirectly from five other towns, and as having taken with her from her many mothers, what was best and most useful for a prosperous town out of each of the towns from which she sprung. West Boylston has within her boundaries, territory which at one time belonged to Boylston, Holden, Sterling, Shrewsbury and Lancaster.

Nature abundantly provided for West Boylston. Here when considered in connection with other New England towns, she had more than average rich and productive soil, covered in many parts with large growth of valuable timber. The surface like most other towns in this county, was diversified with hills, plains, valleys, well watered with springs, brooks and rivers. The Nashua, Quinapoxet and Stillwater Rivers, with their tributaries, furnished natural power for manufactories and other industries, equalled by that of few towns in the state. The citizens of the town early took advantage of the natural resources and established upon the banks of these streams many large and important manufactories, which naturally contributed much to the wealth and growth of the town. Alas, the day came when a ruthless hand swept them off the face of the land.

When she was incorporated as a town in 1808, with her 600 inhabitants, she was the proud possessor of three school-houses, one tavern, one church, one minister, with a bounteous yearly salary of \$333.

It is not my purpose to allude to many of the prominent first settlers in your town and the part they took in the first years of its incorporate existence. An occasion like this should not pass, however, without some mention of one whom history declares did more to bring about the incorporation of the

town, and more toward its maintenance in those early trying years of its existence, than any other one man.

Major Ezra Beaman, in his younger days, was a resident of Boylston and quite a religious enthusiast. West Boylston, like many other towns, can trace the cause of her existence, back to a religious controversy. The time came in 1796, when a new church was to be built in Boylston, and a controversy arose as to certain tenets in the creed of the church. Tendencies toward Calvinism and tendencies toward Unitarianism, which then began to be felt in the one and only church in Boylston, were no more likely to assimilate then than they are now.

Where the new structure should be located was another vital question, the decision of which was destined to play a most important part in the founding of this town. The pious parishioners waxed warm in the controversy, and being unable to agree upon either question in dispute, a portion of the then first parish seceded and built their church on what is now known as the "Old Common", and took the name of the Second Parish of Boylston, Sterling and Holden.

The ruling spirit in the establishment of this Second Parish was Ezra Beaman, who was at that time one of the wealthiest inhabitants in this vicinity, a man of rare judgment, upright character and strong will. He contributed most generously for the building of the new church, took the general superintendence and charge of the building and also took a deep satisfaction in constant attendance with his fellow-worshippers there during the remainder of his life. Mr. Beaman's opinion and judgment were sought upon all questions of a public nature, and usually accepted. Many matters of the deepest interest might this day be recalled in connection with Major Ezra Beaman's conspicuous position and power in the early history of this town. For many years, he had the most important public position and office in the town, represented it many times in the General Court, and was, in short, the one conspicuous leader in the town during its first trying years.



But the limited time allotted to me will not permit me to go into these matters of history, although I cannot omit to recall the fact that not a Beaman springing from this old original stock is alive today. The illustrious name and all it stands for is only a blessed memory of the early history of the town.

Next to him, I name the founder and author of the old *Farmers Almanac*, Robert B. Thomas, who was another of the conspicuous and influential first settlers.

Who of us past fifty cannot recall the advent every year of a new copy of Robert B. Thomas' "Old Farmers Almanac", our regular New Year's present — and those prophecies of the weather made, as of course they must have been, nearly a year in advance. I can now vividly recall one of the weather probabilities printed in italics on the right-hand side of the page, devoted to the month of July, beginning near the top opposite July 1st and ending nearly at the bottom opposite July 31st:

"About this time, look out for heavy thunder showers."

It was a little difficult to determine what day or week in the month we were to look out for thunder showers, but we accepted the warning with as much assurance and confidence as we do now the prophecies of Mr. Foster.

Then too, later on, come the Bigelows, Erastus B. and Horatio N., inventors of looms, and afterwards extensive carpet manufacturers. We might profitably spend time in referring to the conspicuous services and untiring efforts to promote the growth of the town, to such names as Sawyer, Houghton, Dinsmore, Goodale, Fairbanks, Moore, Pierce, Lovell, Brigham, Murdock, Wheeler, Pratt, Mason, Hosmer, Keyes, Harris and Cowee.

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In 1815, September 23d, occurred the "great blow", as it has been called, uprooting trees, demolishing buildings and fences and carrying ruin and devastation in its train, and while great injury was caused by this tornado, the injury thus caused is not to be compared with the ruin and devastation

caused by the "cyclone" which struck this town in 1895, when the Legislature passed what is known as the "Metropolitan Water Act."

By the provisions of this legislative act, authority was given for certain commissions to build just beyond the boundary of your town an immense dam, which was estimated to cost ten millions dollars, but did cost fifteen million, and to flow a greater part of the best and most fertile portion of your town. By that act, hundreds and thousands of acres have been taken for a part of a basin, and its protection, to store water for the use and benefit of the cities and towns from here to the Atlantic.

We can gather some idea of the spirit and feeling which actuated those having in charge this great work of providing for the necessities of those who were located in Boston and vicinity, and how thoughtful or thoughtless of your interest they were, by referring to this statement contained in the report to the legislature of the State Board of Health in 1895.

"In considering the places for the proposed reservoir above the Lancaster Mills, we have been impressed by the very serious changes which will be produced in the towns of Boylston and West Boylston. It does not appear to us to be a very important objection to our plan that certain mill-sites will be 80 feet beneath the surface of the basin, nor that the homes of many industrious people dependent upon these mills for their living will be also submerged, because all these can be paid for, and an equivalent will be given — damages for which we have caused careful estimates to be made."

It is not my purpose to enter into any discussion of the necessity for this act, nor do I intend to harrow up your feelings by a recital of the burdens you have borne, and continue to bear — the sacrifices you have made for the benefit of your fellow-citizens of the great city of Boston and its surrounding cities and towns.

Sufficient it is for me to call your attention to the fact which this act most forcibly and lamentably, for the interests of this town, exemplifies, namely, that in this free America every man who is the owner of his home deceives himself if he

assumes that he can look out over his few or many acres and feel that he is the proud owner and possessor of the soil and his home, and that no one can deprive him of it without his consent.

The security which we feel in the ownership and control of our landed possessions as compared with the land tenure in other countries has been forcibly stated by another in these words: "The wind and rain may enter the humble home, but the King cannot." You will hereafter look upon this statement as simply a figure of speech, for it appears after all that we are only the owners and possessors subject always to a higher authority, — the sovereignty of the State, — that while we hold our land estates in fee-simple, sometimes a simple fee deprives us of them.

Today, looking out over the southeastern portion of your town, where once were many happy, flourishing farmers and tenants, where once were large and flourishing manufactories and business enterprises, one now sees only a wide waste of trackless water, upon whose surface not a boat or sail or other evidence of life is permitted to appear, save the few minions of the law, who patrol the gravelly shores of this lifeless waste of water in the hopes of apprehending some one who, perchance, may pass beyond the dead line and become a trespasser upon the realm of the "Metropolitan Basin."

Not satisfied with despoiling a large portion of the fairest part of your productive land, they have added the terrors of the police officers and the jail if you venture to pass over a rod of the sacred soil or rocks which form the shores and boundaries of the vast water waste. To be sure, I should not overlook the fact that a fair compensation was to be paid to the owners whose homes were despoiled — the compensation to be determined by the hard and fast lines of a purely business enterprise.

The sentiment of the old home, the place of birth, the companionship of relatives and neighbors, the scenes of childhood, the home of advancing and maturing years, went for naught in this purely commercial enterprise. Just so much, and no

more, as a willing buyer, though a stranger from the Philippines, would give, and a willing seller would accept, was the hard and fast rule which was to prevail, and did prevail, in deciding the compensation which your citizens received for being deprived of their homes, and all sacred association of home life.

But whether a fair and just amount was paid for the property taken, impaired or destroyed, or not, the prosperity and natural growth and development of the town was seriously retarded and impaired. The large and profitable manufacturing industries were substantially or entirely destroyed for all time and the most productive portion of your town for agriculture was drowned and blotted out of existence. As a thrifty and prosperous manufacturing town, you are seriously and sadly affected.

Your population decreased from about 2500 in 1900 to about 1500 in 1905. But the resolute and indomitable spirit which characterized the founders of this town and which has prevailed through the generations since, would not permit despondency, doubt and fear to long retain an abiding place here. You would not remain demoralized. You would not down. You determined that the town should not be destroyed, that obstacles in your pathway of progress could, and should, be removed. You saw that, while your many and varied manufactories were gone, never to return, and your agricultural industries had been most seriously injured and largely destroyed, the question before you was how to secure others to take places of those who, dependent upon your many and flourishing manufactories, were forced to leave you and find business and employment in other places. You saw that there yet remained most beautiful and inviting sites and locations for residences where those seeking homes away from the din and strife of a busy life could find quiet and peaceful homes in an intelligent and law-abiding community, with none to molest or make afraid.

And so today, while the manufactories, mills, shops, stores, schools and churches have departed, never to return, and your fields, meadows, forests, farms and homes, are now covered by a

broad expanse of soulless, nerveless water, there has sprung up in the western part of your town many new, comfortable and beautiful homes, inhabited by earnest, learned and cultured people, and in this way, with the new blood, your population and your revenues are increasing. There has been already a great change in the character and quality of your residents. This has become a beautiful residential town, dear to the townspeople and especially attractive for those in other cities and towns looking for a location for a home in a healthy, quiet and attractive suburban town.

You have proportionately excelled your sister towns in the last few years in the number and quality of your churches, public buildings and private residences, which have been built here. West Boylston is destined, in the years to come, to be one of the most attractive and beautiful suburban towns in our county.

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What is the appropriate lesson the present residents of this town should draw from this day's exercises and the celebration of this centennial anniversary? We have seen the town, with a beginning of less than 600 people, grow to more than 2500 in eighty years, and in wealth and material advancement, she has equalled her growth in population. You meet today a united and prosperous people. You constitute a conspicuous component part of a thriving and prosperous county and great community. Your advancement has been proportionate with the advancement of the state and nation.

The old Puritan blood of the founders has commingled with that of the new comer from foreign shores. Amalgamation has taken place here as elsewhere, throughout our Republic. What a radical change has taken place in your population, and not only in your population, but as well in the trend of your industries and development, and yet in your growth, advancement and acquisitions, you have only kept step in a general way with all the other communities in this great country. You are justly proud of your town, your state and your country — their institutions and their people.



One hundred years ago today, there was but one person of foreign birth in this town. Today, a majority of the inhabitants can trace their blood to foreign countries.

History teaches that great races are made of the mixture of races. The bravest and purest blood of the world's great race is mixed in the American, and I in no respect refer to the marriages of American wealth and vanity with the crowned or uncrowned heads of the Old World.

You are a part of the great American Republic, the grandest country the sun shines upon. Our nation contains the most diversified and assimilative elements that ever composed a great nation. It is the best located, most compact and symmetrical of all nations. North and South of us are friends, from whom there is nothing to fear. East and West, the everlasting seas our bulwark, if we stop meddling with the islands and their people on the Pacific Ocean. We have risen to greatness as a nation more rapidly than ever did a great nation before, and our ascendancy is less endangered from without than was ever that of any other great nation.

We have outrun the prophecy of our progenitors, and surpassed the ideals of our founders. Our people understand each other better than they have heretofore, have more hearty feelings of friendship and sympathy for each other. At home and abroad, the principles of and the flag of the American Union were never more respected. This is our country, of which this state and this town compose a definite part. All this vastly rich inheritance which we in common with 90 million of American people this day enjoy, has been made possible, in large measure, by the efforts, judgment, trial, sacrifice and suffering of the founders and defenders of this town and other towns throughout the states, making up this magnificent country.

These are some of the thoughts which come to you today, just passing the first centennial mile-stone. Who can penetrate the future to foretell what shall be the harvest of the next hundred years? Is it possible that those who come after us shall witness the same degree of advancement and development that

you have witnessed as the result of the evolutions of the last century? Will telephones, electric cars, automobiles and the thousand and one uses to which electricity has been applied, become obsolete and out of use, and if so, what will have taken their places?

One hundred years ago there was not a steamboat in existence and the application of steam to machinery was unknown. In 1807, Fulton launched the first steamboat. At that time, there was not a single railroad in this country or any other. The first locomotive in our country was built in 1830. The first electric telegraph was installed in 1843. We read in our local papers this morning what transpired in the countries of Europe yesterday. What next? What can our posterity do to add to these mighty achievements? We cannot now imagine unless it may be they invent and utilize some aerial vehicle which will transport people through space in safety, at a speed exceeding the railroad cars, and possibly the telescope will be so far perfected that it can be clearly determined just what, if anything, is transpiring on the planets, moon and stars.

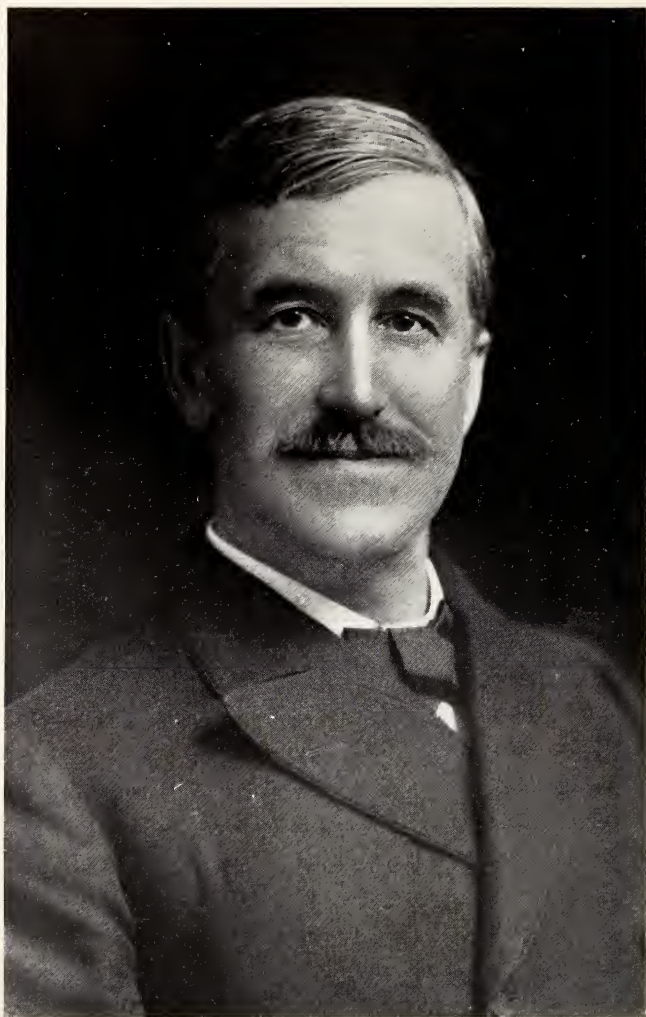
But, whatever the future has in store for West Boylston, may those who come after resolve to emulate whatever they find good in those who have gone before. — their courage, their self-denial, their industry and their thoughtfulness for everything which works for the uplift of the town so that those who come after you to celebrate the second centennial anniversary of West Boylston may see around them the results of your efforts, trophies of your energies and usefulness and may hold your names in affectionate and kindly reverent remembrance, which you this day so willingly and lovingly pay to the sacred memory of your ancestors.



## ADDRESS BY JUSTICE ARTHUR P. RUGG.

The anniversary celebration of the founding of a town is an event of surpassing interest. "Age cannot wither nor custom stale" the sentiments with which mankind regards the recurring periods which commemorate the establishment of civil institutions and their preservation through times of darkness and struggle. Our national birthday has always been observed with universal rejoicing, and the memorial requiem for those who fought and have died that "government of the people, by the people and for the people might not perish from the earth" commands the hushed reverence of a reunited people. If the day shall ever come when these national holy days no longer hold the attention of a country of intelligent and patriotic citizens, then will the eyes of Freedom be dimmed with tears, and her head be shrouded with dread apprehensions for the future. A people which forgets the traditions of their liberty ceases to prize liberty at its true value. When compared with the hoary antiquity of the cities of other countries, the oldest of our American municipalities seem scarcely to have commenced a career. Not to speak of some of the remains of oriental civilization whose history stretches back before the beginning of the Christian era many centuries more than have elapsed since the birth of the Saviour, there are towns in the fatherland of England, whose recorded existence is at least coeval with the first of the Cæsars.

But among the towns of Massachusetts none have more honorable or inspiring annals than that group which trace their lineage directly or more remotely to Fair Lancaster by the Nashaway. The oldest town in Worcester county, dating her corporate existence from 1653, her pioneers were as resourceful and skilful and brave as any that ever subdued a savage



HON. ARTHUR P. RUGG OF WORCESTER  
JUSTICE SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS

wilderness, and turned it into paths of pleasantness and peace. Phœnix-like she rose from the devastation of Indian conflagration, and renewed her strength after the horrors of massacres by the redskins. Her first settler, John Prescott, not only founded a township, constructed roads and bridges, cleared forests, and built settlements, but he established the first saw and grist mill in the county. He was thus the prototype of the builders of the great manufacturing industries which have been the foundation of the prosperity of this town of yours and of our great county. The modern phrase, Captain of Industry, describes but one of his many-sided activities. Beyond all, he was the first citizen of the community in which he lived, a proud distinction, than which there is no title more honorable or deserving the grateful recognition of successive generations.

Lancaster has the pre-eminence among all her sisters of this county at least, and perhaps of the entire Commonwealth, of being the mother of many towns. The process of separation began with Harvard in 1732, and was followed closely by Bolton in 1738 and Leominster in 1740. Then after an interval of nearly half a century, out of her ample boundaries was carved Sterling in 1781 and Boylston in 1786, while in 1762 and 1781 small parcels were set off to Shrewsbury. In 1850 Clinton claimed for the latest township a tract small in area, but large and still growing in manufacturing industry. In 1784 Berlin was incorporated, owing a large part of her territory to what had been taken from Lancaster by Bolton, and when you became a township in 1808, far the larger share of your broad acres came from Sterling and Boylston, themselves daughters of Lancaster. One of your representatives, therefore, once appropriately described your town a grand-daughter of Lancaster. Nine towns trace their lineage to Lancaster. In the circle of municipalities owing filial fealty to this beautiful mother of towns, West Boylston has her honorable place. It is a group remarkable not alone in numbers, but in all those elements which go to make the strength and purity of communities and enduring power and virility of states.



In your town, as well as in all the others, the standard of citizenship has been high. Corruption has never blistered the walls of your municipal buildings, nor has graft gained nor ever attempted to secure a foothold in your administration. West Boylston, in common with the other Lancastrian towns, has illustrated the honesty and efficiency of town meeting government. We of New England birth and ancestry and training sometimes forget the incalculable debt we owe to the town meeting. It is peculiarly a New England institution. While it is possible to find a few of its distinctive features in the Parish of the sixteenth century in England, or searching further into history to discover some of its principles described by Tacitus in his *Germania*, these are but semblances. All systems of government have certain elements in common. Local self-government is one of the characteristics of the Teutonic race. The Saxons carried the spirit of it with them when they emigrated from the banks of the Elbe to the downs of England. They kept it alive through the eleven centuries which intervened before the landing at Plymouth Rock. It was bred into the bone and sinew of the true-hearted and hard-headed companions of Winthrop and Endicott. But the town meeting is a birth of New England soil. It is indigenous here, and not transplanted from any foreign soil. Under its beneficent training the places of prominence have fallen to those who deserved them. The only greatness it has recognized has been that achieved by earnest and honest effort.

In the town meeting were discussed the fundamental human rights which led to the separation from the mother country. Here were developed and formulated those principles of civil and religious liberty upon which our nation is founded. It was the town meeting which made the revolution. But for the training in political thinking and the discussions of the work of the committees of correspondence in these assemblies, the people of New England would not have responded to the appeals of Adams and Warren. Nay, more — such leaders were the fruit of the town meeting. Their keenness, sagacity, breadth of comprehension and soundness of judgment could

have been bred in no other arena. So it has been all through the years of your life as a town. The ignorant have been educated in affairs of government in the forum of the town meeting. Whenever there has been a crisis in state or nation your people have been true to their training and have responded bravely to the highest duties of citizenship.

The patriotism of your citizens in the war for the preservation of the Union is attested by the example of one of your adopted sons, Sergeant Thomas Plunket, "who" (to use the eloquent phrase of Senator Hoar) "gave both arms to save the flag of the country he loved, and whose stout and constant heart has never yet regretted the sacrifice." Civic philistinism in larger communities has been rebuked by the purity of your government.

Education in free public schools has been one of the corner stones of our ideal of government, and worship of God according to the dictates of the individual conscience has been the other. Your history shows that you have been true to this ideal. The country town in all its history has shown the spirit of charity, which can cope with the larger questions of humane service in congested centres of population. The memory of each one of us calls to mind a farmer's wife, carried on the ox sled through drifting snow, to minister to the suffering neighbor, with no thought save to relieve distress. More than one such lived in every school district of our childhood, and she trod close to the footsteps of the Master. Let this example be followed throughout the length and breadth of the land, and the social evils of our time will cease to loom so large on the horizon.

But the last decade has brought changes in the conditions of life in the country towns undreamed of twenty years ago. The rural free delivery, the local telephone, the trolley car and the auto' have made a revolution in the surroundings of those who live outside the cities. The progress of science and of inventive genius have accomplished more in the last ten years than in the preceding half century, to make life in the country attractive to the mass of people.

Not long ago there was much discussion touching the depletion in population of the farming communities. That problem has been solved by the march of industrial development. He would be bold indeed who should undertake to point out the path of progress for the country town for the next hundred years. We know that the past is secure. You have a noble record as an inspiration for the future. Whatever may be the particular manifestation of public service, you will not be true to your traditions if you do not in the coming century as you have in the past, furnish the highest example of efficient self-government and to other cities and towns of the county noble types of womanhood and manhood. Neither a man nor a town can live on the attainments of the past. Unremitting, intelligent effort is the essential condition of usefulness. "They must upward still and onward who would keep abreast of Truth". This centennial observance, with its wealth of historic memories and complimentary phrase, is but an incentive toward richer achievement for the future.

May your second century of life as a town be radiant with the wealth of the education, religion and patriotism of all your people.



Justice Rugg's address was followed by the "Shadow song," from "Dinorah," by Mrs. Jennie Crocker Follett of Boston.

County commissioner Warren Goodale of Clinton, spoke, taking for his subject, "The district school."

Mr. Goodale gave a sketch of the founding and growth of the schools and of the district system, showing the gradual development that has resulted in the present excellent system and facilities. Speaking of the district school he said:—



## ADDRESS BY WARREN GOODALE, COUNTY COMMISSIONER.

District school days; were not those the days when the younger boys suffered as today at the hands of the older, when faces were washed in snow, when we were cautioned by our mothers to hurry to school, with hands in thick mittens and ears tied up with a tippet, books and slate in one hand, dinner pail and sled dragging along in the other, off to school.

How some boy with frozen ears would be seen rubbing them with snow, thawing them out. When at recess or noon, soon as our dinners were eaten, we tumbled into our sleds for a coasting trip down some nearby hill, or hastened to some pond for skating. When toes were chilled, from skate straps too tight, and some fellow got wet and had to hasten home for dry clothes, from skating over thin ice.

When snowballs were soaked with water and laid over night to freeze, for our adversaries. When on the opening day of the school there was a grand rush for seats, and how some would force an early entrance to the schoolroom the night or day before and take possession of the choicest and best.

When somebody's frozen ink bottle was placed too near the hot stove and ink flew here and there regardless —and, O, that vision of ink bottles around the stove on writing day! Ink has always been a great factor in school life. Those were the days when water was passed and all drank from the same dipper without a thought of germs. When a thrashing was in order, to interfere with another boy's things in his desk.

When caught whispering to stand on the floor; missed in spelling, to be sent to one's seat; failed in arithmetic, to stay

after school; saucy and impudent to the teacher, feruled on the hand, dose in proportion to the amount of tears and blubbering.

The old stove, about which chattering jaws, cold feet and hands gathered. When at the end of the term we received our cards and booklets, the gift of the teacher for merits won.

When the tack or pin incident sent many a boy home, or to the prudential committeeman.

When spelling was one of the greatest accomplishments, and to defeat some pupil the teacher must resort to the dictionary for words.

The winter spelling school, with every scholar bringing a lantern to illuminate the schoolroom.

When were played four old cat-collie over, puss, puss in the corner, fox and geese, barn tick, snap the whip and other old-fashioned games.

When the boys sat on the east side of the schoolroom and the girls on the west. When it was a misdemeanor for either sex when entering or leaving the school to pass through any but their respective doors.

When teachers assigned seats adapted to the size of the scholars, without regard to classes

Mr. Goodale gave a list of those who served as school committeemen between 1840 and 1870. He then said:

"I am now going to call the roll of some of the good boys and girls who went to school and were neither absent nor tardy, and some who were so good that they did not whisper for a whole term; and as I call this roll I wish, if there are any here today they would answer the roll-call with a good, strong "Here!"

Of a list of about 300 names read by Mr. Goodale, the following answered: Susan A. Murdock, Eddie A. Murdock, Edward F. Merriam, Mrs. Edward A. Cowee, Frank H. Baldwin, Mrs. Mattie Houghton, Hon. Edward A. Cowee, Mrs. Aaron Goodale and County commissioner Warren Goodale.

Henry F. Harris of Worcester, a native of West Boylston, and for most of his life a resident here, made an address, in



which he spoke of men of business ability and energy who had established industries in the town that have contributed largely to its prosperity and progress.

Mr. Harris' remarks were followed by a song by Mrs. Guckenberger.

Hon. Edward A. Cowee, one of the natives of West Boylston, in a happy vein, recalled some of his early experiences in the town when a boy. His remarks were of a personal nature, and he brought to mind many of the old scenes, names, faces and incidents of the time when he was a boy.

Mr. Cowee recalled the fact that Ruel G. Cowee, his grandfather, was the first man in the state to ship a carload of corn from Chicago.

Mrs. Follett sang "Mattinata", "Cradle song" and "April morn."

John S. Lynch of Boston, a native of the town, and one of the first graduates of the high school, made a short speech, in which he referred in pleasing vein to his life in West Boylston and his cherished memories of the days he passed there.

Remarks by Walter D. Ross and Louis Cutting, both of Worcester, and both natives of the town, were the last speakers of the afternoon.

These occupied seats on the platform: Walter D. Ross, Worcester; John S. Lynch, Boston; Henry F. Harris, Worcester; Hon. John R. Thayer, Worcester; Justice Arthur P. Rugg, Worcester; County Commissioner Warren Goodale, Clinton; and Roger M. Lovell, Rev. Ernest A. Royal, Leon A. Goodale, W. B. Wood, Daniel S. Lynch, Walter E. Chapman, Warren E. Gammell, all of West Boylston, and Hon. Edward A. Cowee and Louis Cutting of Worcester.

For the evening entertainment the chief feature was a grand concert and the centennial ball. Strachan's 9th regiment orchestra of Boston played for the concert and the dancing.

The march was led by floor manager and Mrs. W. B. Wood, and dance orders were distributed by Masters Dwight M. Goodale and Tracy S. Wood.

# CENTENNIAL BALL

OF THE TOWN OF  
WEST BOYLSTON

THURSDAY EVENING  
JANUARY 30TH, 1908

TOWN HALL  
WEST BOYLSTON : : MASSACHUSETTS

## CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

	W. B. Wood
Leon A. Goodale	Warren E. Gammell
Daniel A. Lynch	Walter E. Chapman

## FLOOR DIRECTOR

W. B. Wood

## AIDS

Daniel A. Lynch	Walter E. Chapman
William E. Storms	Myron D. Potter
Carleton A. Cook	Joseph H. Cavanaugh
Arthur Ward	Dr. H. W. Trask
William J. McGinnis	H. Fay Baldwin
Arthur H. Sawyer	

## RECEPTION COMMITTEE

	Frank H. Baldwin
John S. Lynch	D. Frank Prescott
W. Clifford Scarlett	Charles C. Landy
Parker M. Banning	D. Clifford Lord
Harry E. Lowe	Walter G. Boynton

## CONCERT PROGRAMME

FROM 8 TO 9 O'CLOCK

- 
- |                                   |                        |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. MARCH—"The Fighting Ninth"     | <i>Strachan</i>        |
| 2. OVERTURE—"Poet and Peasant"    | <i>Suppe</i>           |
| 3. SELECTION—"Red Mill"           | <i>Herbert</i>         |
| 4. CORNET SOLO                    | Mr. Ernest S. Williams |
| 5. MEDLEY SELECTION—"School Days" | <i>Edwards</i>         |
| 6. FINALE—"American Republic"     | <i>Thiele</i>          |
- 

Strachan's 9th Regiment Orchestra  
of Boston                      Eight Pieces

## ORDER OF DANCES

### GRAND MARCH

- |                   |                         |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. WALTZ          | One Hundred Years Ago   |
| 2. QUADRILLE      | Maj. Erza Beaman        |
| 3. TWO-STEP       | Our Former Citizens     |
| 4. PORTLAND FANCY | The Old Valley          |
| 5. WALTZ          | Our Mother Towns        |
| 6. QUADRILLE      | Robert B. Thomas        |
| 7. TWO-STEP       | G. A. R.                |
| 8. WALTZ—German   | The Ladies              |
| 9. QUADRILLE      | Benjamin F. Keyes       |
| 10. SCHOTTISCHE   | Our Visiting Friends    |
| 11. CONTRA        | Sergeant Plunkett       |
| 12. WALTZ         | Our Silent Water Wheels |



## A MEMOIR OF ROBERT BAILEY THOMAS.

WRITTEN BY HIMSELF.

(This narrative was started in the Almanac of 1833 and continued through several succeeding numbers.)

My grandfather, William Thomas, was a native of Wales, (Eng.) and born there of an opulent family, and received a liberal education, at Christ's College, Cambridge. It seems he emigrated to this country, somewhere about the year 1718. Tradition says, he with other brothers came first to Stonington, Conn.; of this, I shall not undertake to say; it is well known that he came to Marlborough, (Mass.) sometime about the year 1720, and married Lydia Eager, a daughter of a respectable farmer of Shrewsbury, and resided in Marlborough until he died in 1733. Two years after which, my grandmother died. He had two sons and four daughters. My father, William, was the eldest son, who was born in Marlborough, March 1725; he losing his parents at so tender an age, had but a very imperfect recollection of them. After his mother's death, he went to Shrewsbury to live with his grandmother Eager; where, and at Jonas Morse's of Marlborough, he resided some years. He attended the town school in the winter, the limited time it kept. Being of a studious turn of mind, and fond of reading, he purchased many books, and soon became quite a scholar for those days. In the year 1744, he commenced school keeping at Brookfield, at the age of 19 years, which he followed winters, more or less for upward of forty years. The same year, commenced in Hardwick, being the first school master in that town.

In April 1747, he left this country for England, to obtain a patrimony justly belonging to his father in Wales. And on the 8th of May, in going north about was taken by a French privateer out of Dunkirk, and stripped of all. Afterwards was ransomed, and arrived at Boston in October. In August 1749, he made another voyage to London, where he stayed sometime, and visited Wales, with the expectation of obtaining the right of inheritance, but was unsuccessful, on account of the lapse of time since my grandfather left Wales.



HOME OF ROBERT B. THOMAS



It would be difficult, not to say impossible, to follow step by step his various avocations and employments for a period of 14 years; I would merely remark, in this time he received a lieutenant's commission in the army, not pleased with a soldier's life, he left the army, and followed his former avocation at intervals, of school keeping, and as an assistant in a store, and finally, went into a small way of trade himself, until the year 1764, when he bought a small farm situated in the north parish in Shrewsbury. In 1765 he married Azubah Goodale, daughter of Joseph Goodale, a respectable farmer of the town of Grafton; at whose house, the subject of these memoirs was born, April 24th, 1766.

I removed with my parents, while quite an infant, from Grafton to the farm in Shrewsbury, north parish, now West Boylston. The farm was situated in that district then locally known by the name of Shrewsbury-leg.\* (It is rather paradoxical, but no less a fact, that I have resided in four incorporated towns, and two distinct parishes, and one precinct, yet never moved from the same farm.)

I had one brother only, born June 1768, named Aaron. We were the only children my father ever had. In our youth we were brought up to farming. Our father, who was thought to be quite a scholar for those days, instructed us at home, and sent us to the winter school. I had, when a boy, more of a mechanical than a literary turn of mind, though my father never indulged me much in it, wishing, rather, as he said, to make me a scholar, giving me the offer of a liberal education, which I foolishly declined. In 1781, I lost my mother, who died in an apoplectic fit. She was naturally of a feeble constitution. My father married, the second time, Esther Whitney, a maiden lady, in 1782, but had no issue. In the winter of 1783-4, my father sent me to Spencer, with Major E. Beaman's two sons, to improve my hand in penmanship, (which he was very fond of,) with Dr. I. Allen, who, at that time, wrote the most superior and beautiful copy hand of any person in the country. I boarded with him at Mr. J. Stebbing's; and when his term was out, I followed him to Sterling, and continued with him till April, and much improved my handwriting. The succeeding winter, I was agreeably and closely occupied in the study of arithmetic, under my father's inspection, who was well versed in this science, but had never before allowed me to pay it any attention, saying he could "learn me figures at any time."

My father was a great reader, and possessed a larger miscellaneous library than was generally to be met with in a country town; of consequence, I spent most of my leisure hours in reading. Among many scientific works, no one engrossed more of my attention than Ferguson's

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\*This strip of land, usually called Shrewsbury-leg, was united to Lancaster, second parish, by an act of incorporation, February, 1768. And in 1781, said parish was incorporated into a town, by the name of Sterling. In 1796, certain inhabitants of Boylston, Sterling, and Holden, obtained an act to form themselves into a precinct, by the name of the Second Parish in Boylston, Sterling, and Holden; and, in 1808, they obtained an act of incorporation by the name of West Boylston.



Astronomy, from which I derived much pleasure and satisfaction, from the plain and familiar manner in which he treated the subject; and from the pleasing study of this work, I first imbibed the idea of calculating an almanack. Previously, I had made a number of calculations of new and full moon, and taken out the elements, and projected several eclipses, but found it impracticable to make all the necessary calculations for an almanack. In 1786, I had an application to keep school, in my native town, in the Fairbank district, so called. I kept out the town's money, satisfactorily, I believe, (though many of my scholars were older than myself,) and engaged to keep three or four weeks more, by subscription. I boarded principally at Deacon Israel Moor's, and agreed to go about in the district. I returned home in April, and worked on the farm through the summer. In the succeeding winter, I attended a singing school, under the instruction of a Mr. Manning, in the town of Sterling.

In the fall of 1787, I had an invitation to keep school in the westerly part of Princeton, near the house of Richard Baxter, with whom I boarded, he being a sober, worthy man. I continued in the school until the first of April, 1788, embracing a term of three months or more, when I returned to my father's in Sterling and continued on the farm through the summer, alternately studying and laboring on the farm. In the fall of the same year I was applied to, to keep school in the easterly part of Sterling. The school house was located on the old road leading from Sterling to Lancaster, and near the house of Dr. J. Barnard, in whose family I boarded very agreeably, he having rather a facetious turn of mind; his family of children being young and sprightly, I spent one of the pleasantest winters of my life.

In April 1789, I returned to my father's and pursued my favourite study of astronomy, occasionally laboring on the farm, and busying myself with book-binding which business I had been partially fond of for years—binding up manuscripts and account books, and repairing other old books, for my neighbours.

I found, with all my reading, the want of a practical knowledge of the calculations of an Almanack, which I could not obtain by reading—this was my hobby. In September I made a journey into Vermont, to see the then famous Dr. S. Sternes, who for many years calculated Isaiah Thomas' Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Vermont Almanack, but failed of seeing him. I passed through the towns of Athol and Warwick; in the latter, I had two uncles on my mother's side then living, and in the former, an aunt, whom I visited. The ensuing winter I agreed to keep school in Boylston, (now West Boylston) near my place of residence. But the district disagreed, respecting the price of my services, as they could have another teacher for a little more than half what I asked them. It was however, agreed that I should begin and keep one half the money, and the other should close,

which terminated soon after I left, the other kept but about two weeks, when all his scholars left him. I boarded in Capt. J. Bigelow's family near the school-house. At the time I engaged at Boylston, I agreed to open a school in Sterling in the district known by the name of Square-shire: where I opened the next day after leaving Boylston; my school here was very numerous and a large proportion of them men and women grown—my school went on in the full tide of success for a few weeks, when all at once the whole school was taken down with the measles, and was dismissed.

I pursued my former avocations through the summer. In the course of the season I agreed with N. Coverly, a printer in Boston, to print for me 1000 of Perry's Spelling Book (being used exclusively in this section of the state) which I bound up, and other school books, and commenced Bookseller. There being but few books in the country, I found a good sale, to the storekeepers, schoolmasters, &c. Some time in the fall, I called on Mr. Isaiah Thomas of Worcester, (no relation of mine, as I know of,) to purchase 100 of his Almanacks in sheets, but he refused to let me have them, saying he did not sell in sheets only to those of the trade. I confess I was mortified, and came home with a determination to have an Almanack of my own. I very well knew, that there were many things in his, that were not generally approved of, and which I knew I could remedy.

In the fall of the year 1790, I had a pressing invitation, by one of the committee, D. Goodale, to keep school in Boylston, the same district in which I kept the winter previous; it seemed they had become reconciled to the price I had asked, as he made no ado, as heretofore, about it. I commenced my school sometime in the month of December, and continued it through the winter. I now boarded with Mr. T. Keyes, a man of steady habits and good character. His wife was a very pleasant and agreeable woman; the family was small, having an only daughter and the two youngest sons at home, excepting an adopted daughter, who was a niece of Mrs. Keyes'; they being young and social, I enjoyed quite a pleasant winter.

In the spring of 1791, I returned home to my father's and pursued book-binding, except a few weeks in hay time, when I assisted in hay-making. Early in the fall I had several applications to keep school, but I gave no encouragement to any applicant, till at last Capt. E. Allen, one of the school committee in the north-east part of Princeton, who was very solicitous to have me keep school in their district, and, to accommodate me, agreed to postpone the school until the first of January, 1792; at which time I commenced my school, and at first boarded with J. Beaman for six or seven weeks.\* I then agreed to continue the school

\*He married, November 17, 1803, Hannah Beaman at the house of Phinehas Beaman of Princeton. Probably the daughter of Phinehas and Hannah (Buss) Beaman.

in a more easterly part of the district, near Capt. Allen's, and to board with him.\* Capt. Allen was a man of strong passions, though humane and affable in his family; he sustained the office of deputy-sheriff while I was in his family, and had for many years previous, with reputation—was kind, it was said, and an obliging neighbour. Mrs. Allen and the family were friendly and agreeable. I continued the school for five or six weeks longer; and cultivated quite an acquaintance with the young people of the place, often visiting at their houses, and spending many a social evening. And while I resided here I formed an acquaintance in a family, of which, some years afterwards, I married one of the daughters. At the close of the town school, Mr. A. Herington engaged me to keep a private school in his house for some weeks, for the benefit of his son and two daughters. After finishing my school, I returned to my father's sometime in April, with a full determination never to resume it again. The business never was very congenial to my feelings; I had pursued it for want of some better employment. I had now made up my mind to follow the binding business, there being a call from Boston and other places at this time for binding. My brother, whose health was not good, concluded to go into business with me; we contracted with a carpenter to build us a bindery and store adjoining, in the course of the following summer, near my father's; prior to which we had carried it on in a chamber in our father's dwelling house. Still I could not relinquish the idea of publishing an Almanack of my own. The last of June or the first of July 1792, I went to Boston and agreed with Osgood Carlton, then a teacher of mathematics in Boston, to instruct me in astronomy, so far as related to the practical part of calculating an almanack; which he readily consented to do, for a stipulated consideration.

I continued at Mr. Carlton's school, kept in an unfinished building in Merchant's Row, till the latter part of August, and made all the calculations for an Almanack for the year 1793, being my first number. Before I left town, I disposed of my copy to two young printers, long since deceased—Joseph Belknap and Thomas Hall—for a certain percentage on all those that should be sold; which, with a very trifling exception, has continued ever since though the copy-right has been repeatedly transferred. While at Mr. Carlton's school, I boarded in Milk street, with J. Allen, a Scotchman. His wife was a young Englishwoman, with whom I enjoyed many a social hour; Mr. Allen was bred a gardener in Scotland, and at this time had the sole care of the then noted Lady Hayley's garden, situated on Pemberton Hill, later the estate of G. Green, but now entirely eradicated.

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\*At this time, the noted Sam. Frost, whose singular gestures and odd motions attracted so much notice, supposed by many to be an idiot, lived with Capt. Allen, whom Frost afterwards, in July, 1793, murdered by striking him with a hoe on the back of his head, while he was stooping, setting plants. He was taken, tried, condemned, and executed at Worcester.

He had killed his father some years previous, with a stake from the fence. He was then tried for murder, but was acquitted on account of insanity.

Mr. Thomas was elected the first Town Clerk of West Boylston. Served as Selectman and was for three years Chairman of the Board, also served the town as Assessor and as Moderator.

For five years he represented the district in the General Court, and was a Delegate to the State Convention in 1820, for revising the Constitution of Massachusetts.

Mr. Thomas died in West Boylston May 19, 1846, and, with his wife, who died September 28, 1855, is buried in the Leg Cemetery, Sterling.





WEST BOYLSTON MANUFACTURING COMPANY



# CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

OF THE TOWN OF  
WEST BOYLSTON  
MASSACHUSETTS



THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1908



AARON GOODALE, CHAIRMAN OF SELECTMEN  
CONGRESSMAN CHARLES G. WASHBURN

HON. JOHN R. THAYER  
MAYOR JAMES LOGAN OF WORCESTER



T. FRANK HICKEY  
CHAIRMAN OF THE SELECTMEN OF SHREWSBURY



## CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.

The morning of the sixteenth of July ushered in an ideal summer day; the cooling shower during the night before having cleared the atmosphere and the pealing of the bells at six of the clock; also the firing of a salute of one hundred guns, stirred the villagers to a high sense of the importance of the occasion, and many of them were in the early part of the day kept actively engaged in greeting old friends, acquaintances and relatives who came to enjoy, with the people of West Boylston, the festivities of the day.

There was a little delay in mustering the players to form the rival clubs for a game of ball which was played on the Goodale field; some of the old-timers at the bat evoking considerable applause as they gave evidence of their former skill in twirling the ball and swinging the bat.

The contesting clubs for the ball game were made up as follows: West Boylston A. A., who were the winners, Ryan, Potter, Marsh, Day, J. M. McQuillan, Fearigo, McCurdy, Snow, Howe and Ivory.

Old Timers, J. McQuillan, Jr., J. Bellevue, J. McQuillan, Sr., Marsalis, Mallett, Murphy, St. Onge, O'Toole and C. Bellevue.

Next in order came the Coaching Parade. Some of the participants started from Oakdale and then proceeded to the High School, where the line was formed headed by Strachan's 9th Regiment Band of Boston. The route was then by the way of Crescent, Central and Worcester Streets to Maple Street, thence countermarching to the Common, where the route was continued down Worcester Street to Prospect Street, up Prospect Street to Newton, and thence out Newton Street to the Com-



OAKDALE LADIES



WEST BOYLSTON HIGH SCHOOL



mon, where the judges. Harry W. Smith of Worcester, Warren Goodale of Clinton, and Louis M. Hanff of Rutland, awarded prizes for the most attractive equipage.

For the best 4 and 6-horse float or decorated coach, brake or drag, 1st prize of \$20 was given to Senator E. A. Cowee, of Worcester, who had a 6-horse stage coach decorated in yellow and white with Senator Cowee driving. Second prize, \$10, was given to the Oakdale ladies, who had a 4-horse stage coach decorated in pink and white. Third prize, \$5, Ladies' Independent Relief Corps, of West Boylston, who had a 4-horse float decorated in blue and white.

For the best decorated float or coach, 2 horses: First prize, \$15, to The Maples, of West Boylston, a laurel decorated coach; 2nd prize, \$10, to West Boylston Reading Club, in white float, trimmed with green; 3rd prize, \$5, to a laurel-decorated barge from The Maples, of Oakdale.

For best decorated 1-horse float: First prize to the sophomores of West Boylston high school, who had a float decorated in red and white.

For best decorated 1-horse coach or hitch: First prize, \$10, to Miss Josie Wilder, of Sterling, in a butterfly surrey decorated in pink and white; 2nd prize, Mrs. Myron D. Potter, of West Boylston, in an umbrella phaeton decorated in green and white 3rd prize, Miss Helen E. Mixter, of West Boylston, in an umbrella phaeton decorated in pink and white.

For the handsomest 2-horse hitch not decorated: F. W. Blanchard, of Worcester.

For the handsomest 1-horse hitch not decorated: Mrs. F. N. Goddard, of Princeton.

For the handsomest horse and trappings ridden by a lady: First prize, Miss Mary E. Robbins, of West Boylston; 2nd prize, Miss Blanche E. Robbins, of West Boylston.

For the handsomest horse and trappings ridden by a man: First prize, Dr. Warren S. Thayer, of Worcester.

For the firm or company making the biggest and most attractive advertising display: Ross Bros., of Worcester.





MISS MARJORIE COWEE



WEST BOYLSTON READING CLUB

For the most horrible looking team: A. J. Scarlett, Jr., of West Boylston.

Special prizes:

Hon. Charles G. Washburn, of Worcester, made a special award of three prizes as follows:

First, to E. P. Rice, mother and sister, of Sterling Junction, who appeared in a pink and white surrey; 2nd, to the Worcester County training school, for a green and white carryall; 3rd, to Charles L. Tupper, of Worcester, for a pink and white depot-cart.

Mr. Harry W. Smith awarded a special prize to Miss Marjorie Cowee, for the best appearing tandem-team.

Hon. E. A. Cowee also awarded a special prize to Tracy S. Wood, of West Boylston, for the smartest pony-team.

Other participants in the coaching parade, aside from the prize winners and those of whom views are given, were:

Carriage containing Albert W. Hinds, Chairman Reception Committee, with Major Ira Vaughn and Major Philip S. Sears of the Governor's Staff, representing the State.

Carriage containing the Centennial Committee and teams of D. A. Putnam, Worcester; Mrs. James Allen, Sterling; Mrs. Albert M. Tyler, Oakdale, and Mrs. Arthur H. Sawyer, West Boylston.

The views selected of the Coaching Parade were chosen, not because they were prize winners alone, but on account of the quality of the views and the fact that they seemed to best represent the event.

At noon, dinner was served in the dining tent, while the invited guests were entertained at The Maples.



MRS. ALMIRA R. RICE AND FAMILY



THE MAPLES

## Programme.

- 6.00 A. M. SALUTE AND RINGING OF BELLS.  
 8.30 A. M. BALL GAME. Goodale's Field.  
 10.30 A. M. COACHING PARADE.  
     1 Four or Six-Horse Float or Decorated Coach, Brake or Drag.  
     2 Decorated Float or Coach (Two-Horse).  
     3 Decorated Float or Coach (One-Horse).  
     4 Handsomest Two-Horse Hitch, not decorated.  
     5 Handsomest One-Horse Hitch, not decorated.  
     6 Handsomest Horse and Trappings, Ridden by a Lady.  
     7 Handsomest Horse and Trappings, Ridden by a Gentleman.  
     8 Firm or Company making the Biggest and Most Attractive Advertising Display.  
     9 Most Horrible Looking Team.  
 12 M. DINNER. Served on the Grounds by the Ideal Lunch Co., of Worcester.  
 1.30 P. M. AFTERNOON EXERCISES.  
     PRAYER, - - - Rev. George H. Cummings  
     ADDRESS OF WELCOME, - Warren E. Gammell  
     HISTORICAL ADDRESS, - - Leon A. Goodale  
     ADDRESS, - - - Hon. Herbert Parker  
 3.00 P. M. BAND CONCERT,

### CONCERT PROGRAMME.

- 1 MARCH—"Col. Donovan," - - - Strachan  
 2 OVERTURE—"Poet and Peasant," - - - Suppé  
 3 SELECTION—"Red Mill," - - - Herbert  
 4 CORNET SOLO—"Cliftonian Polka," - - Williams  
     Mr. Ernest S. Williams.  
 5 MEDLEY SELECTION—"Hits of New York," - Helf  
 6 CONCERT WALTZ—"Golden Sunset," - - Hall  
 7 AMERICAN FANTASIA—"North and South," - Bendix  
 8 FINALE—"National Emblem," - - - Bagley

### SPORTS

- 1 Tug of War between Oakdale and West Boylston. 8 men on a side.  
     Best 2 out of 3.  
 2 Running High Jump.  
 3 Egg Race. Women over 18 years.





TRACY S. WOOD

MISS HELEN E. MINTER



M. PARKER BANNING



- 4 100-yard Dash. Boys under 16.
- 5 3-Legged Race.
- 6 Fat Man's Race. 50 yards.
- 7 100-yard Dash.
- 8 Tug of War between Oakdale and West Boylston Boys under 16 years. 12 on a side.
- 9 Potato Race. Girls under 16.
- 10 Running Broad Jump.
- 11 Sack Race, 50 yards. Sack to be not over 3 feet wide, to tie around the neck and to be furnished by contestants.
- 12 Half-mile Run. Handicap.
- 13 Catch the Greased Pig.

**EVENING.**

8.00 P. M. BAND CONCERT AND ILLUMINATION.

**EVENING CONCERT.**

- |   |                                      |   |   |                |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|---|----------------|
| 1 | MARCH—"The Fighting Ninth,"          | - | - | Strachan       |
| 2 | SELECTION—"O'Neil of Derry,"         | - | - | Chauncy Olcott |
| 3 | XYLOPHONE SOLO—"The Elks,"           | - | - | Snow           |
|   | Mr. Harry F. Cade.                   |   |   |                |
| 4 | MEDLEY OVERTURE—"Remick No. 5,"      | - | - | Remick         |
| 5 | INTERMEZZO—"Ivanhoe,"                | - | - | Van Alstine    |
| 6 | SELECTION—"Fifty Miles from Boston," | - | - | Cohen          |
| 7 | COMIQUE—"The Two Thomas Cats,"       | - | - | Clark          |
| 8 | FINALE—"Our Commander,"              | - | - | R. B. Hall     |
|   | Auld Lang Syne.                      |   |   |                |

**CHIEF MARSHAL**

Frank H. Baldwin

**AIDS**

Harry E. Lowe	W. Clifford Scarlett
Myron D. Potter	Oscar Burns
Harry W. Trask	Aaron Goodale, Jr.

**SPORTS COMMITTEE**

Edward A. Waters

Walter G. Boynton

Frederick R. Ivory

**HISTORICAL LOAN EXHIBIT COMMITTEE**

Albert W. Hinds

Ella L. Sawyer	Mary L. Waite
Warren E. Gammell	D. Frank Prescott
Luna F. Parker	



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, JULY 16, 1908

## RECEPTION COMMITTEE

Albert W. Hinds

Aaron Goodale	Waldo B. Howe
George W. Reed	George D. Lawrence
Joseph M. Lord	Charles H. Baldwin
G. Harvey Keyes	Thomas Lynch
William P. Chase	Harry E. Lowe
Jeremiah Fisher	Albert B. Pierce
Thomas W. Shepard	George F. Keyes
Edward Lovell	W. M. Huntington
Charles R. Huntley	Edward A. Newton
William C. Pierce	Bernard F. Moran
M. Parker Banning	Robert W. Morrill
George A. Barker	Franklin Sargent
William C. Ovenden	Arthur Ward

## USHERS

Frank H. Baldwin

William T. Holmes	Arthur H. Sawyer
Arthur L. Bosworth	Carleton A. Cook
William J. Burns	George M. Lawrence
Charles W. Reed	Edward Bond
Joseph H. Cavanaugh	Archibald R. Davis

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AFTERNOON EXERCISES.

The afternoon exercises were held in the huge tent erected for the occasion on the common. Mr. W. B. Wood, chairman of the Centennial Committee, presiding.

Those occupying seats on the platform: Maj. Ira Vaughn, Maj. Philip S. Sears, of Boston, both members of the Governor's Staff; Congressman Charles G. Washburn, Mayor James Logan, Justice Arthur P. Rugg, Hon. John R. Thayer, Louis Cutting, John W. Sheehan, Walter D. Ross, David A. Matthews, of Worcester; Hon. Henry O. Sawyer, of Fitchburg; Warren Goodale, Chairman of the County Commissioners, of Clinton; George L. Wright, of Boylston; George F. Buttrick, of Sterling; J. Winthrop Holt, of Holden; Selectmen Aaron Goodale and Walter E. Chapman; Albert W. Hinds, and Thomas Lynch, together with the speakers.

Prayer was offered by Rev. George H. Cummings, pastor of the First Congregational Church, following which Selectman Warren E. Gammell was introduced and gave the words of welcome, substantially as follows:

**ADDRESS BY SELECTMAN WARREN E.  
GAMMELL.**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It hardly seems fitting that a native of another town should be called upon to welcome you to the birthplace from whence so many that I see before me, have gone forth to try their fortunes in the world.

In the year 1850, while in my boyhood days, I came to West Boylston, and with the exception of one year, this town has been my home. Here I found my helpmate, and as we have walked in and out among the citizens of the town, strong attachments have been formed, not only for the place, but for the people as well. And I feel that I can extend a most hearty welcome to every person within the sound of my voice, to this our Centennial day. The coming together, the exchanging friendly greetings, helps to strengthen the ties that bind us into a community of townsmen and friends, and stimulates our love for the home and the town in which we have a common interest.

Many of you can recall the scene of the once prosperous village of nearly fifty years ago, with its workshops, where the hum of the machinery was heard early and late; the beautiful river in the valley, the old red cotton mill, the saw-mill with its up and down saw, the old blacksmith shop with its trip-hammer, the grist mill with its dusty miller, the old valley stores, or the farmers and the ox teams, and various other signs of an active prosperous town; with its increase in traffic following the closing years of the war; of the increase in population; but with all this many of you are familiar, and I will not weary you with further citations.

In behalf of the Centennial Committee, in the name of the officers of the town, we give you a most cordial, hearty and heartfelt welcome.



## HISTORICAL ADDRESS BY LEON A. GOODALE.

There are certain features which stand out pre-eminently in the history of every people, and each municipality has some historical characteristics which more or less distinguish it from others. To think of Mount Vernon is to think of the tomb and immortal name of Washington. The history of Boston is intimately associated with Faneuil Hall. Charlestown is meaningless without her Bunker Hill and her monument. Concord has her minute man keeping watch where was fired that famous shot heard around the world, and the story of American liberty centers around Independence Hall in old Philadelphia.

Names and places these are, precious to every loyal heart. They are inseparably linked with American history. They are shrines of freedom. From their altar fires have leaped the flames that have kindled the fires of patriotism and loyalty in millions of hearts. To the native born, they make real and vivid those early scenes and awaken anew veneration and love for our country's flag and institutions. To the stranger, they bear silent testimony to the grandeur of our principles and the greatness of our fathers. They are a priceless heritage. Their value is beyond that of finest jewels. Money could not buy them. Rivers of patriot blood would flow ere alien hands should desecrate or defile.

“Breathes there the man with soul so dead,  
Who never to himself hath said,  
This is my own, my native land!  
Whose heart hath ne’er within him burned,  
As home his footsteps he hath turned  
From wanderings on a foreign strand!’”  
(Scott. Lay of the Last Minstrel)





OAKDALE, LOOKING NORTHWEST

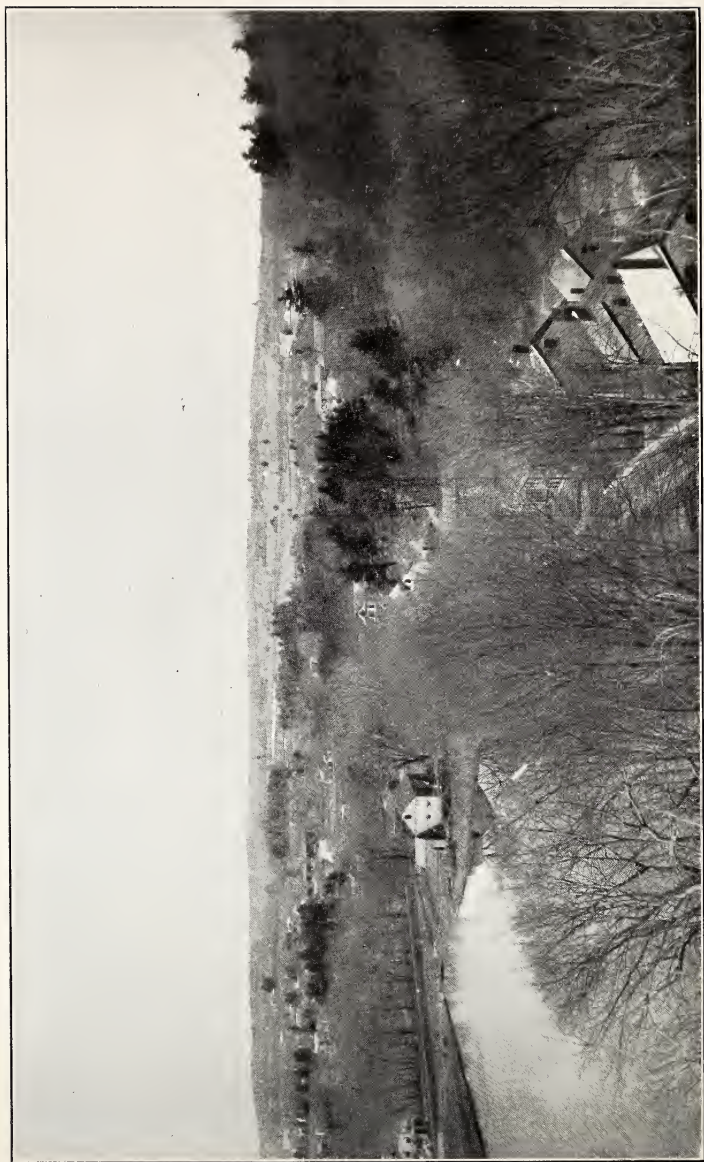
The native of West Boylston who returns to his childhood's home is confronted with a strange situation. The old, historic landmarks are gone. Beaman Tavern, the famous old oak, Thomas Hall, the mills, canal, pond, have disappeared. Not only are his old friends and neighbors scattered, but his very birthplace is gone; the streets that teemed with business and resounded with tread of mill workers is now a lake of blue, tossing waters.

Barred out from fields and wood where his childish feet strayed by flaring signs, "No Trespassing", it seems a strange land. Stores, streets, railroads, houses, schools swept away, even the solemn rest of the dead disturbed and their ashes gathered from familiar cemeteries and placed elsewhere. In fifteen years the very face of nature has undergone more startling transformation than usually takes place during the slow sweep of almost endless geological ages. No wonder a feeling of bewilderment comes over him. He feels like a man without a birthplace, barred ruthlessly from the hearts of his childhood, cast out into the world. His home is gone. His West Boylston is no more. The ties that bound him to this spot have been rudely severed. They are but a memory fading with the passing years.

We talk of the changes of the past hundred years, yet greater ones have taken place in the last ten years. The old landmarks that stirred local pride and kept alive local respect and loyalty have been obliterated. No town in our country has ever suffered more severely in proportion to its size than West Boylston.

It was no idle statement made by an attorney that the destruction of West Boylston was without precedent, and that the only parallel case was told by the poet Longfellow in the dramatic classic *Evangeline*.

This extraordinary condition imposes unusual duties. Today a generation is living that has seen the historical places, and is familiar with their story. To-morrow a new generation will be here, and the memory of early events will be but dim. The duty devolves upon us by every means in our power of making



LOOKING UP THE VALLEY FROM FRENCH HILL

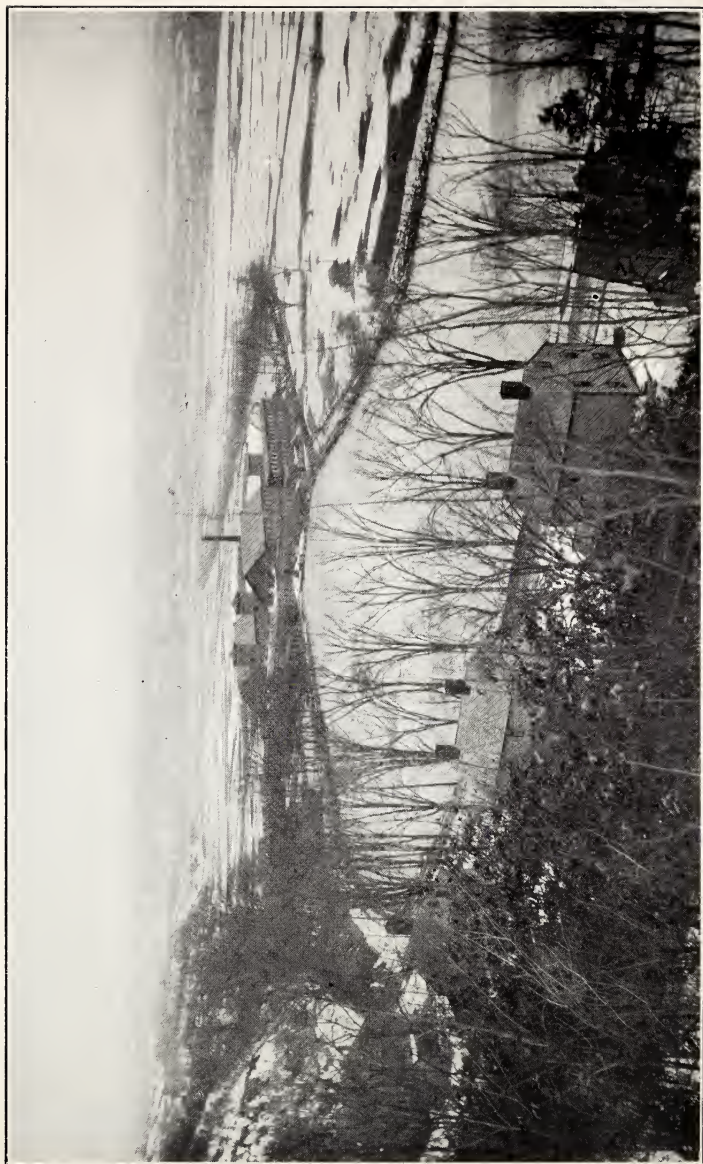
the coming generations familiar with past achievement and story. The facts of our history must be put on record, the story of former days and places must be often told. Charts and maps and photographs must be carefully preserved. Such a course is necessary to awaken local pride, to stimulate loyalty to local traditions and aspirations, to arouse and encourage that energy and co-operation that shall insure a future as prosperous and honorable as the past has been.

As a river is sometimes formed by the junction of two or more streams that pour their currents into one, so West Boylston has been formed by the union of peoples from several towns. Boylston, Shrewsbury, Holden and Sterling have each contributed their share, and these in turn have sprung from the parentage of Lancaster, Worcester and Marlborough.

The territory now included in the town of West Boylston was the outskirts of these surrounding towns, and the people were left largely to their own defence and resources. It soon attracted the sturdy pioneers by its natural advantages. Its scenery was varied and in many places romantic. Here were the forests furnishing in lavish abundance timber for their dwellings and their fires. Its soil in the fertile valleys and intervalles provided plentiful subsistence, while the streams with their foaming rapids furnished water power for sawing timber and grinding grain. It was a place well favored by Mother Nature, and was well adapted to become the center in future years of a busy, prosperous, contented manufacturing community.

Here, in 1720, came the earliest settler, Joseph Hinds. Others soon followed. From Marlborough came Nathaniel and William Davenport, Benjamin Bigelow, Edward Goodale, Micah Harthan, and many others. From Woburn came Jonathan Fairbanks; from Medford, Jonathan Lovell; from Boylston, Simeon and Thomas Keyes. From far and near they came. These early settlers were a hardy, vigorous race; social and benevolent; kind and generous to each other; hospitable to strangers. They were strongly attached to principles and customs of the Pilgrim Fathers, carefully sustaining the institutions of religion





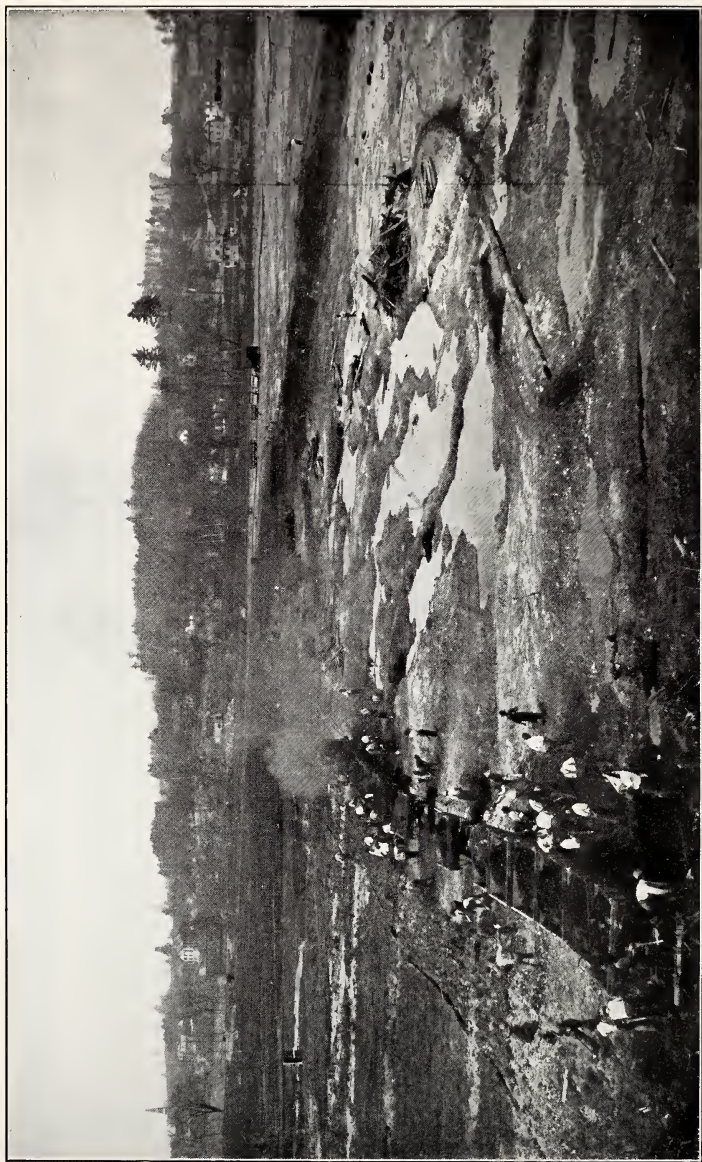
THE CLARENDON MILLS



and learning. They were conscientious and faithful in their attendance on public worship on the Lord's day, and taught their children to cherish the principles and to adhere to the customs of their ancestors.

The Indians gave them comparatively little trouble, though for many years the settlers were apprehensive of attack from tomahawk and scalping knife. A block house was built in the south part of the town and kept as a place of refuge. The natives formerly were numerous and powerful, but disease and war reduced their numbers. John Eliot, the great apostle to the Indians, had visited Quinsigamond in 1674 and met with some success in Christianizing the red man. There were other dangers, however, beside the Indians. It is told that Jonathan Lovell used to come to his place in the springtime with a yoke of oxen and return in the fall. He built his cabin on posts and when he retired for the night would pull the ladder up after him. In the darkness the wolves would come out and eat the scraps of food that might have been left below.

The settlers bore their part in the patriotic and religious movements of the several townships. They were represented among the soldiers of the French and Indian wars, and these had no sooner ceased than the war of the Revolution broke out, taxing the patriotic community to its utmost. The record of West Boylston is an honorable one. Although it was not then a separate town or parish, the men living within its present boundaries were not lacking in patriotism or devotion. Because their citizenship belonged in different towns the name of West Boylston does not appear in the Revolutionary annals; yet the men who won fame and honor in that glorious struggle were among the founders of our town, and their descendants are still with us. They had already learned the art and spirit of self-defense. They did not shrink from self-assertion. Their zeal and activity in securing, for themselves and the colonies, liberty and independence, are all the more remarkable when we remember that communities and neighborhoods were divided by that struggle. Some of the leading citizens and families remained loyal to the crown. At the present time we can



STRIPPING THE INTERVAL BELOW THE BALL GROUNDS

readily grant the sincerity, bravery and worth of the Tories of those days as well as the patriots. For our ancestors the experience was a trying one, for it meant for them a struggle with a loved pastor after twenty-five years of peaceful and happy relations. Rev. Ebenezer Morse was the pastor of the Shrewsbury North Parish. He was a cultured, educated, able man, and staunch and immovable in his loyalty to his king. In spite of the opposition of his people he insisted on praying in public for the king, queen and Royal family. They could not drive him away, so at a Shrewsbury town meeting in 1775, a committee was appointed to examine him and several others suspected of Toryism. On their report that the minister had in sundry instances, "appeared not to be so friendly to the common cause as we could wish, but rather in some instances, unfriendly," it was voted that he be deprived of his arms and ammunition and warlike implements of all kinds and that he be not allowed to pass over the lines of the Second or North Parish in which he lived without a permit from two or more of the committee. As one has said, "All the more striking is the patriotism of these men, who did their duty, although the red line of excision ran through their own pulpit."—(H. M. Smith, *Boylston Centennial*.)

In 1774 it had been voted to have two militia companies in the Shrewsbury South Parish, the North Parish already having a company, whose officers' names sound familiar to us. They were Ezra Beaman, Captain; Ephraim Beaman and Jonathan Fassett, Lieutenants; and Solomon Bigelow, Ensign.

On February 18, 1775, a letter was received by Capt. Ezra Beaman from John Avery of the Committee of Donations at Boston, acknowledging the receipt of 53 bushels of rye and corn sent by North Parish of Shrewsbury "for the distressed inhabitants of that poor devoted town, who were groaning under the rod of despotism."

The dawning of the memorable 19th of April, 1775, found the Minute men prepared. Those who lived within the present limits of our town were far from the centers of the towns of which they were citizens. The story of how the cry, "To

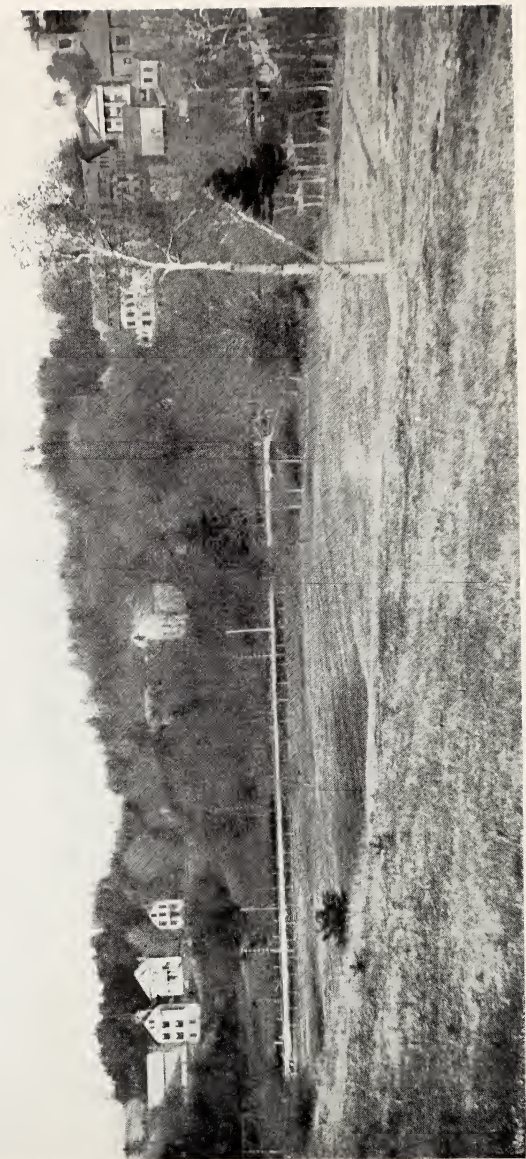
Arms," was carried over the hills and through the vales of West Boylston till it reached the home of Serg. Ingalsbe on the banks of the Quinepoxet River may never be told. Whether by horsemen from Shrewsbury on the south, by spurring rider from Lancaster on the north, or by galloping messenger from Holden on the west, we may never know. The poet in his immortal lines has left us the thrilling story of the ride of Paul Revere. Undoubtedly during that night and the following day that ride was duplicated by scores of fleeting horsemen. It is on record that on the morning of the 19th, a post rider came galloping in hot haste through the town of Lancaster, shouting to every one he saw, that the red coats were coming out of Boston. Instantly booming cannon summoned the Minute men. Mounted messengers spread the tidings far and wide. Undoubtedly that call to arms resounded by many a West Boylston fire-side and field that day. Work was left, hurried farewells were spoken, the powder horn and bullet pouch with the old flint lock musket were thrown over the shoulder and the patriot hurried away to the scene of conflict. To Holden, to the Company of Captain Paul Raymond went Asa Lovell, Amos Lovell, William Raymond. With the Company of Capt. James Davis went Isaac Temple, Paul Goodale. Some undoubtedly marched with one of the six companies that went from Lancaster, perhaps in the Company of Capt. Joseph White. By far the greater number marched with the Company of Capt. Robert Andrews from Shrewsbury North Parish. Among the number appear the names of Ezra Beaman, Lieut., who might be called the founder and father of our town; Jonas Temple, Lieut., whose son, John Temple, long served as chairman of our selectmen; Sergt. Ebenezer Ingalsbe; Corporal Thomas Keyes, grandfather of historian Benj. F. Keyes; Corporal Aaron Goodale, the first of five generations to bear that name; private Abel Bigelow, grandfather of the great inventor and carpet manufacturer; privates, Peter Goodale, Abel Holt, Oliver Densmore, William Winn, and others. Besides these minute men many more served at some time during the war. Israel Keyes, Jonathan Gale, Ebenezer Ingalsbe, Jr., William Eames, Stephen Brigham, Abel Bigelow,



Thomas Keyes, Aaron Goodale, were among those who marched to Hadley in 1777. Other names are given by historian Keyes: John Bixby, Joseph Bixby, Zachariah Child, Joseph Dwelly, William Fairbank, Oliver Glazier, Benjamin Hinds, Jr., Jason Hinds, Ebenezer Pike, Isaac Smith, John Temple, Nathan Wilder. These names constitute a roll of honor of "Brave and patriotic men of whom we may well feel proud. Their memories will ever be cherished by a grateful people with feelings of respect and veneration. Mention should also be made of the fact that one of our citizens, Benjamin Hinds, loaned \$60,000 to the Continental Congress.

The circumstances which led to the formation of a precinct and ultimately the town are too well known to be dwelt upon at length. Shrewsbury North Parish had become incorporated as the town of Boylston on March 1st, 1786, taking its name from the eminent Boylston families of Boston. It was necessary to build a new meeting house. In those days the meeting house was the center from which radiated the religious, political, educational and social life of the community. Perhaps for this reason it was customary to locate it in the geographical center of the town as well. The majority proposed to build the new church near the old one. The minority, headed by the resolute Ezra Beaman, demanded that it be located in the center, which was half a mile nearer the residents in the west part of the new town. The majority persisting in carrying out their wishes, the minority turned itself into a majority, by the time-honored custom of withdrawing and starting over again all by themselves. They built the new church with commendable zeal and rapidity on a piece of land given by Abel Bigelow, Joseph Bigelow, and John White, now known as the West Boylston Common, on which historic spot these exercises are now taking place. The meeting house was completed and dedicated in 1795 and a petition for incorporation as a town was forwarded to the General Court, signed by ninety inhabitants of Boylston, Sterling and Holden. This petition was refused, but another was granted, incorporating them as the Second Precinct of Boylston, Sterling and Holden, in June, 1796.





FROM THE OLD HIGH SCHOOL TO THE BRICK MEETING HOUSE  
TAKEN FROM THE WEST END OF THE PRESENT CAUSEWAY

In about twelve years, steps were taken which, though opposed, resulted in the incorporation of the town of West Boylston on January 30, 1808. At the time of incorporation there were about 98 dwelling houses, with a little less than 600 inhabitants in the new town. There were 60 farmers, about a dozen mechanics, one clergyman, no physician, but one person of foreign birth, and apparently there was no need of an undertaker.

There was said to be one cotton mill, two grist mills, two saw mills, one clothier's mill, one tannery, four blacksmiths' shops, one cabinet maker's shop, two book binderies. There were three schools and three stores, one church and one tavern.

The land composing the town in shape resembles an Indian tomahawk without a handle. The history of the various land changes is somewhat confused and complicated. It is a matter of history that James Ist made a grant to the Plymouth Company of all the land between the 41st and 45th parallels of latitude, and that later its successor, the Council of Plymouth, in 1620, received a grant of all land between the 40th and 48th parallels of latitude and extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific. It can be readily seen that many grants made in this generous off-hand way must, by the limitation of the size of our continent, result in overlapping boundaries, disputes as to titles and changing ownership.

In 1655 the first grant of land in this vicinity was made by the General Court to the town or church of Malden. This grant contained about one thousand acres. A memorial of that grant is still found in the name of Malden Hill. In 1659 a grant of land was made to Richard Davenport, a commander at Castle Island in Boston Harbor. It comprised about 650 acres and extended north to the old stone bridge.

In 1653 Lancaster was incorporated as a town, and included the territory within the boundaries of Sterling and part of West Boylston. In 1660 Marlborough was incorporated and in 1727, Shrewsbury was set off from Marlborough. In 1722 Worcester was incorporated, including the territory set off as Holden in 1740. The boundary between Lancaster and Shrews-

bury was several times changed. A strip of land between the two about four miles long and one wide was known as the Shrewsbury Leg. It belonged first to one town, and then the other. In 1781, Sterling was incorporated and covered all the territory belonging to Lancaster now lying within the limits of West Boylston. In 1786, Boylston, formerly the North Parish of Shrewsbury, was incorporated and absorbed that portion of "The Leg" not covered by Sterling. Then in 1796, the Second Precinct was incorporated, including a portion of Holden, Sterling and Boylston, and in 1808 followed its incorporation as the town of West Boylston. These changes resulted in a certain portion of the Shrewsbury Leg being at one time or another within the limits of five towns. Other portions of our town have been within the limits of four towns, and no portion of it but what has been within the limits of three towns. Robert B. Thomas, who lived in that district known as the Shrewsbury Leg, said in the famous Farmer's Almanac of 1834: "It is rather paradoxical, but no less a fact, that I have resided in four incorporated towns, and two parishes and one precinct, and yet never moved from the same place." At the Bi-Centennial Celebration of the town of Lancaster in 1853, the toast was offered to the town of Boylston: "Boylston took to herself Shrewsbury Leg and ran away from her mother." West Boylston took to herself the same Shrewsbury Leg and ran away from her mother and grandmother.

At the first election in West Boylston, held March 1, 1808, Silas Beaman was chosen Moderator, Robert B. Thomas, Clerk, Ezra Beaman, Jonathan Plympton, William Fairbank, Silas Beaman and Amos Lovell, Selectmen, and Ezra Beaman, Treasurer. There were about 150 ratable polls. The legal voters numbered 105.

It is a matter of record that during the first year of the town's existence warrants were issued for twelve town meetings. We may feel sure that town affairs that year occupied a prominent place of interest and were well cared for. The same spirit of zeal was seen in the business affairs of the town. Its character as a farming community soon changed and it became

a manufacturing village. In fifty years the number of farmers increased from 60 to 70, a gain of only 10 in half a century. Some of the first cotton mills in the country were located here. The Slaters, those pioneers of cotton manufacturing in this country, were interested in property in this vicinity. The excellent water power furnished by the junction of the Quinapoxet and Stillwater Rivers in forming the Nashua, made it certain that the greatest development would be along manufacturing lines. At first, saw mills and grist mills were multiplied. A clothier's mill and a scythe factory, with the first trip hammer used in this section of the country, gave the town a distinction that attracted strangers from a distance.

The chief industries of the town have been the bottoming of boots, and cotton manufacturing. At one time, 2000 pairs of boots were finished and sent to Worcester daily, giving lucrative employment to many people. Six cotton mills gave employment to hundreds, so that in 1895 the population had increased to about 3000. Those who have seen the town in the valley know and will ever remember the beauty of the natural scenery for which it was famed.

From the beginning attention has been paid to schools and education. At the time of incorporation there were three schools. Almost the first business of the voters was to organize the schools. The town records contain the following interesting item under date of November 8, 1808: "After much debate respecting districting this town into school districts, a motion was made by Mr. Paul Goodale to rescind all former votes for districting the town into school districts, which was put and declared in the affirmative. A motion was then made by Mr. Goodale in substance that the town build four schoolhouses, two on the west and two on the east of the Quinapoxet River, and that a committee be chosen from the east side to place the schoolhouse on the west side, and vice versa, and lastly that the school money be divided into four equal parts and be schooled out into each schoolhouse, which was voted."

The number of districts was increased the following year to eight and remained at that number till 1868, after which the





ODD FELLOWS HALL, JULY 16, 1908



number varied from eleven to fifteen until 1902, when as a result of building the Wachusett Reservoir, it returned to two, centralized in two buildings, one in Oakdale, the other the new school building.

The spirit that actuated the town in caring for its schools is admirably represented in the report of the school committee of 1868. It reads: "The character of a town may be very correctly estimated and the value of its forms decided by the condition of its public schools. If these are in good order and progressing, the school buildings neat, commodious and well furnished, the children interested and constant in their attendance, the teachers equal to their positions, well educated, pure in morals and manners, well paid and wide awake, the parents as anxious to improve their schools as they are their farms, manufactories or their merchantable wares, the inference is truly drawn that that town is feeling the progressive spirit of the age and contains a reading, thinking, virtuous and patriotic people."

In 1870, two high schools were established, one at Oakdale and one at West Boylston, thus showing how ancient is that sentiment that thinks and speaks of our town as West Boylston and Oakdale. These two schools were consolidated into one in 1880 and it has since done most excellent work.

The town library was established in 1878. In that year a legacy by David Childs, a gift by his widow, Lydia Maria Childs, a well-known writer, and an appropriation of several hundred dollars by the town gave it a good start, and today it numbers over 7,000 volumes and supplies a reading room with magazines and periodicals. It is fast outgrowing its present quarters and today is in the position of a coy young maiden, casting arch glances and waiting the coming of a wooer in the form of some public spirited person who shall offer his bride a home in a new, attractive library building.

When the Civil War broke out, West Boylston maintained the high standard of loyalty and devotion of former years. Lincoln's call for volunteers found ready and generous response. With a population of about 2500, she sent to the front

252 men, ten per cent. of her inhabitants. Of the able-bodied men between the ages of 16 and 60, one in every three enlisted under their country's banner. Of this number twelve were commissioned officers, and two were surgeons. They gained their honors by bravery at the front, and while the privates and non-commissioned officers were as brave as any who wore the blue, the name of Sergt. Plunkett will ever be a household name in our country and a synonym of bravery and faithfulness even unto death. Thirty-one gave up their lives during the war, on the field of battle, in the hospitals for the wounded and in prison pens. That fast diminishing number of veterans who yet remain with us shall be honored as long as Providence spares their earthly lives.

Those who remained at home were not lacking in loyalty, nor love for their country. Their patriotism was manifested in various ways. Many maintained liberty poles from which by night hung a light and by day waved the glorious stars and stripes, the flag of a united land and the greatest and best nation of the earth.

It may not be amiss in passing to call attention to the fact that for every man between the ages of 15 and 60 who remained at home, there were two and seven-tenths women. Their predominance and prominence has outlasted the war. It has resulted in making so deep a religious impression upon this community that though it came through the devastation wrought by the Metropolitan Water Board, with the loss of mills, stores, houses and two-thirds of its people, it came out of that crisis without the loss of a church, having just the same number as before.

The coming of the Metropolitan Water Board, backed by all the sovereign power of the state, still remains to some of our people as a hideous nightmare, and it takes long years to realize that it was no dream, but a stern reality. In 1895 a black ominous cloud was seen rising over the state house at Boston, that great center of wind storms and fiery eruptions, and moved toward the peaceful valley of the Nashua. As it grew, a funnel-shaped cloud appeared whose earthward end reached the

ground as it neared West Boylston. Ere the terror-stricken inhabitants had fairly recovered their senses, the tornado had passed. Stores, mills, homes and churches were scattered in ruins, while the bursting of the waterspout was filling the former beautiful valley with a lake eight and one-half miles long from the Clinton dam, two miles wide in the broadest part, the area submerged about six and one-half square miles, with a circumference of 35 miles, a depth of 110 feet at the dam, with a capacity of 63,000,000,000 gallons, and costing forty millions of dollars. From West Boylston it took six mills, eight school-houses, four churches, 360 dwelling houses occupied by upward of 1700 people. Of course they paid for it, but money cannot buy the feeling of attachment, the sentiment that clings to the home of childhood. Of necessity the old West Boylston has gone forever. Of necessity a new West Boylston has arisen without even the solace of being able to say, that "Phoenix-like it has sprung from the ashes of the old."

It is difficult for strangers and visitors to realize the complete change that has been wrought. One single illustration may help us to realize it. Near the spot where a hundred years ago oxen were unyoked and the old-time stage coach dashed up to the old Beaman Tavern with cracking whip and foaming horses, today, electric cars are speeding along fifty feet in the air.

In view of such startling changes how significant seem the closing words of Keyes' History of our town, written fifty years ago (page 83): "In 1908, when the Centennial Anniversary of this town shall be celebrated, perhaps some, how many cannot be conjectured, who are now here enjoying and participating in current scenes and events, may be present with others yet unborn, on that interesting occasion; while much the larger portion of the present inhabitants of the town will then be numbered with the silent dead.

"What will then be said of us who are now here, actively engaged in the busy scenes and transactions of life? Will our general course as social beings, residing and acting in this community, and our individual moral influence be such through life



LADIES' INDEPENDENT RELIEF CORPS HALL  
HEADQUARTERS GEORGE D. WELLS POST 28 G. A. R., JULY 16, 1908



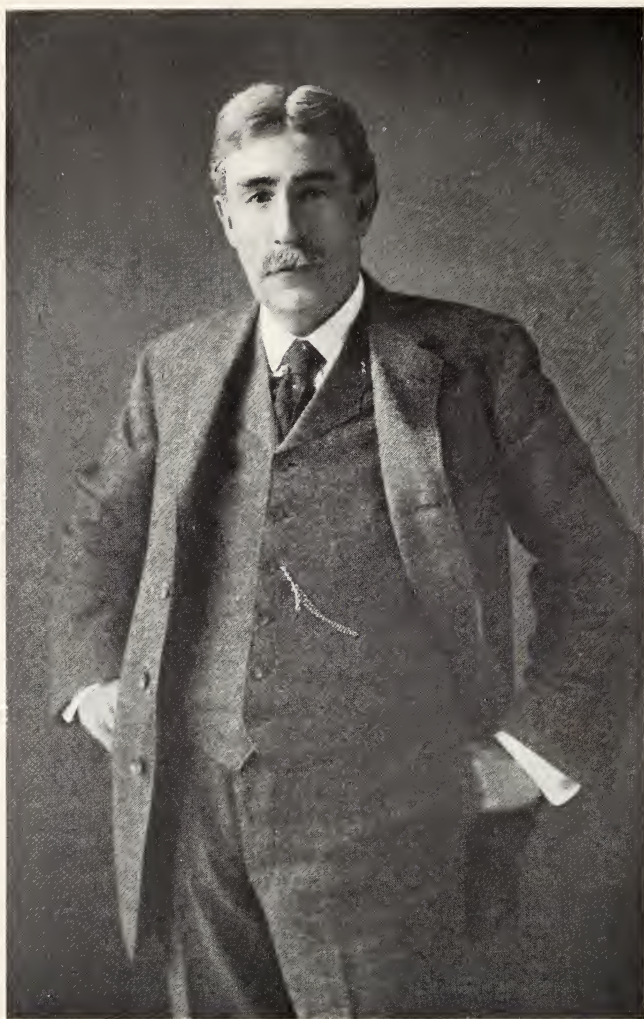
as to merit and elicit the grateful recollection and approval of our successors who may chance then to hold and occupy these dwellings, which we must ere long vacate, and leave to be remodelled and become the residences of our descendants and others? Shall we rightfully deserve the same tribute of veneration and respect from those we leave behind, to which our ancestors and predecessors are justly entitled to from us? Considerations like these might profitably occupy some of those leisure moments which occasionally overtake us, and may the effect be to cause our mark in life to be so made as not to prove a blot on our future memory."

Today the future is before us. What it shall be, the Almighty alone knows. What it may be depends in large measure upon us. Let us be true to the spirit of those who have gone before us, and by our integrity and devotion bring honor and worth to our loved town.

"Our native town; We hail thee now  
And place the laurel on thy brow,  
And as your joyful birthday bells  
The peans to thy glory swells,  
We stand uncovered at thy shrine,  
And round thy brows fresh garlands twine."

(W. N. DAVENPORT, Boylston Centennial.)





HON. HERBERT PARKER OF LANCASTER  
FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL OF MASSACHUSETTS



## ADDRESS BY THE HON. HERBERT PARKER.

The speaker of the day was the Hon. Herbert Parker of Lancaster. Mr. Parker drew his picture of past and existing conditions in the town in a clean cut and masterful manner, referring to the honorable and praiseworthy part that the town and her citizens had always taken in various movements affecting the welfare of the country. He also forecasted the part that the town would, in its newly organized state, take in future events. He told of the intense love of all New England as it dwelt in the breast of every citizen, and the gracious hospitality that was always attributed to it.

"Perhaps," said Mr. Parker, "the salaried weather men who forecast the atmospheric conditions from the mountains of Patagonia to the top of the Equitable building in Boston, were able to do better than your ancestor and fellow townsman in this line, Robert B. Thomas of Farmer's Almanac fame, but I doubt it."

The Centennial Committee regrets that it is able to present such a meager report of Mr. Parker's address. Had the Committee foreseen that it would be requested to place the events of the Centennial upon permanent record, this misfortune could have been overcome.

Several efforts have been made to secure a reproduction of the original address, but these have been unsuccessful on account of the lack of adequate newspaper reports.

The following extract from a letter from Mr. Parker is self-explanatory:

"It is my fault, or misfortune, entirely, that my public speaking is almost wholly extemporaneous, and that I have not and did not have a scrap of paper in the form of notes. I use this method, not from indifference, but solely because it is the only method I can use, since any prepared discourse is very distasteful to me and I cannot present it with any enthusiasm or force.

"I do not now recall even the substance of what I said, and it is impossible, therefore, for me to make any reproduction of the address. If there is any newspaper report which would aid my memory, I might be able, if you desire it, to attempt a reproduction; otherwise, of course, you would have to complete the record without incorporating what I have said.

"I thank you very much for your consideration, and your kindly reference to my contribution to the occasion, which, certainly, in every other respect was most successful."

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### SPORTS.

After the formal addresses came the sports.

**Running High Jumps.**—Won by C. H. Cummings; Andrew J. Searlett, Jr., 2nd; Frank H. Ryan, 3d.

**In the Egg Race.**—Mrs. Charles W. Reed captured first ribbon; Mrs. Arthur H. Sawyer, 2d; Mrs. Fred R. Ivory, 3d.

**Three-Legged Race.**—Andrew J. Searlett, Jr. and Robert E. Lamb made the pair that came in first; Oscar Burns and Dr. Harry W. Trask, 2d; Tracy Wood and Allen Luce, 3rd.

**Fat Man's Race.**—Frank Noble, 1st; Charles T. Lamb, 2d; William L. Searlett, 3d.

**Tug-of-War.**—Won by Robert E. Lamb, John R. Moran, James E. Moran, Elbert H. Boynton, Chester Smith and Charles Johnson.

**Clothespin Race.**—Miss Mildred Prescott awarded the blue; Miss Nellie Lovell, the red; Miss Lena Bowen, the yellow.

**Running Broad Jump.**—Robert E. Lamb won, covering 14 ft. 5 in.; Frank H. Ryan, 2d; Andrew J. Searlett, Jr., 3d.

**Sack Race.**—Frank N. Luce, 1st; James E. Moran, 2d; Robert E. Lamb, 3d.

**Half-Mile Race.**—Won by Andrew J. Searlett, Jr.; Charles H. Cummings, 2d; Robert E. Lamb, 3d.

**100 Yards Dash for Boys.**—Won by Robert E. Lamb; Barton E. Cummings, 2d; R. W. Smith, 3d; Elbert H. Boynton, 4th. Time, 13¾ seconds.

**100 Yards Dash for Men.**—Frank H. Ryan crossed the tape first; C. H. Cummings, 2d; Andrew J. Searlett, Jr., 3d; Oscar Barnes, 4th. Time, 12 seconds.

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A collection of antiques was on exhibition in the First Congregational meeting house. Many of the articles displayed were of special local interest and formed no little attraction, especially those connected with the Ezra Beaman and Robert B. Thomas families.



### **BENJAMIN FRANKLIN KEYES.**

Benjamin F. Keyes, son of Thomas and Lydia (Harthan) Keyes, was born April 15, 1793. His boyhood days were passed upon the home farm, and as he grew to manhood early displayed an unusual interest in the affairs of the town, becoming an active, efficient official, serving as Town Clerk, Selectman and Representative. At the annual town meetings he was repeatedly chosen as Moderator, a position which bears the weight of more or less honor, even at the present day, but in the days that are gone, and at the time of which we write, it was held as a distinguished honor to be elected Moderator of a Town Meeting. He was also prominently identified with the Congregational Church, serving as clerk, chorister of the choir, and deacon of the church. These services already mentioned, valuable as they have been, seem to be overshadowed by the work he performed for present and future generations, in writing, publishing and donating to public use, his "Historical Memorandum and Genealogical Register of the Town of West Boylston," which practically covers the first fifty years in the history of the town, and given in a concise, attractive manner, furnishes accurate data for the student, during the years to come. Mr. Keyes married December 10, 1822, Lois, daughter of Thaddeus and Eunice (Glazier) Nichols, of Holden, by whom he had four children: Jonathan M., Thomas N., William W., L. Eveline, each of whom though over seventy years of age were active attendants at the Centennial Exercises.

Mr. Keyes died in 1870, on the farm where he was born, and which is now owned by his son, Thomas N. Keyes. It is interesting to read the closing chapter of his historical register, where he not only expresses his clear yet serious views of life, but also the almost prophetic vision of the wondrous changes he felt were liable to come over West Boylston, and which we, of a later generation, have witnessed in the disruption of the town.

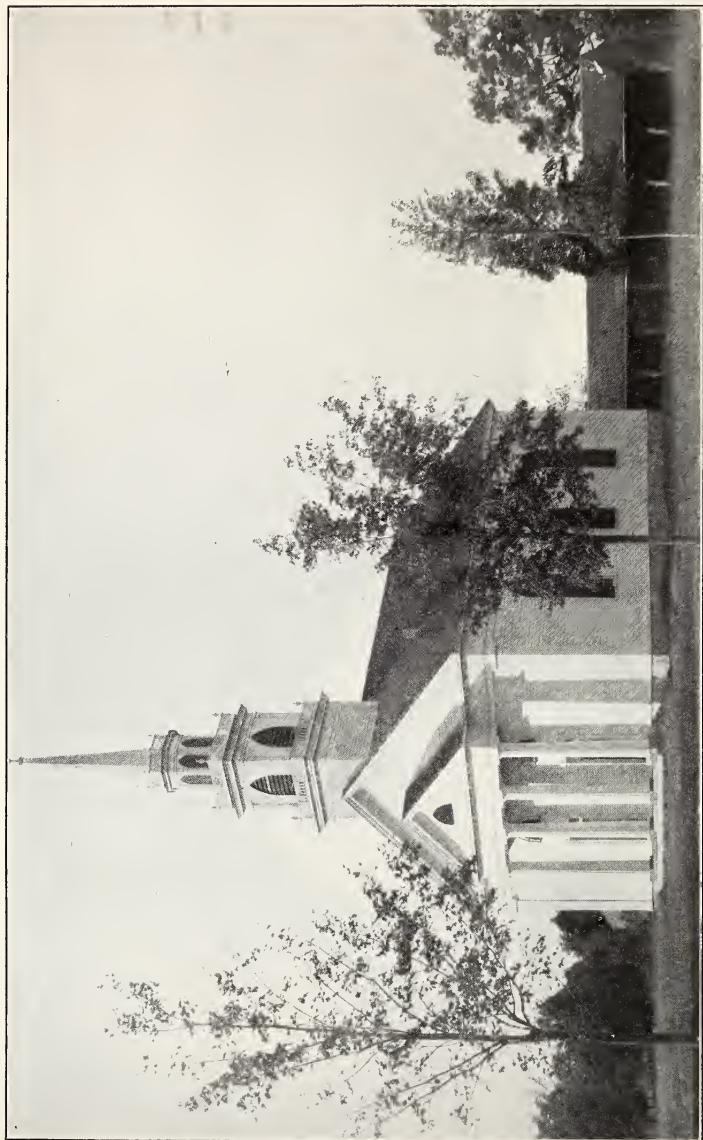
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### **HORATIO HOUGHTON.**

Horatio Houghton also deserves a place among the list of historians of West Boylston.

He was son of Ezra and Sally R. Houghton, born in Fitzwilliam, N. H., September 18, 1821, and married September 2, 1846, Mary S., daughter of





THE OLD CHURCH ON THE COMMON, BUILT IN 1832, REPLACED BY THE  
PRESENT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



Gardner and Selena (Temple) Davis. He filled the office of Town Clerk most acceptably for thirty-four years, having been chosen annually to succeed himself twenty-five years. Although not possessing a strong, robust nature, he was in every way qualified for a model town clerk; very competent, unusually well informed not only with regard to the annals of the town of West Boylston, but on general subjects in connection with his office. He had within him the qualities of accuracy, courteousness and affability, which made him appreciated and well liked by those having dealings with the town.

Thirty years ago Mr. Houghton wrote an interesting sketch of the town, covering fifteen printed pages, for Messrs. C. F. Jewett & Company of Boston, who, at that time, published a two volume work entitled, "History of Worcester County." Mr. Houghton was no doubt limited to the space he was to occupy in the publication, but nevertheless those two chapters present a remarkably good exposition of his subject.

Ten years later (1889), he prepared another sketch of the town, covering twenty-two 12-mo. pages for Messrs. J. W. Lewis & Company of Philadelphia, who also published a history of Worcester County, in two volumes. As might be reasonably expected, his second effort far exceeds the first in volume and in importance, having been allowed more than double the space than that given him in the former work, and the reader must certainly acknowledge that Mr. Houghton improved the opportunity allowed him to the best advantage. He was also assessor for the town (1855-1857), and clerk of the Congregational Church ten years (1858-1868). He died in West Boylston June 13, 1896.

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#### REV. JAMES HILLS FITTS.

Another person to whom the people of West Boylston are indebted is Rev. James H. Fitts, many years pastor of the Congregational Church, from September 3, 1862, to December 3, 1870; was born in Candia, N. H., March 3, 1829, died in Newfields, N. H., November 22, 1900. Son of John and Abigail (Lane) Fitts. During the little more than eight years he made this town his home, not only was he active in ministering for the good of the spiritual welfare of the people, but was gathering data relating to the town, the Church, and the inhabitants generally, for the benefit of those immediately interested, and allowing it to be passed down through the years, from generation to generation, through the medium of the printed page. His story of life in the church, and including that important branch of the church, the Sabbath School, is a most interesting one.

His object in preparing the address was, as he stated to those who asked for its publication (and we quote from his own lines), "Messrs. A. F. Knight, Lyman Pierce and others, it was a desire to preserve from oblivion these fast fading mementos of a former generation which first led to the preparation and delivery of the address, and the same desire does not permit me to withhold it from publication now."

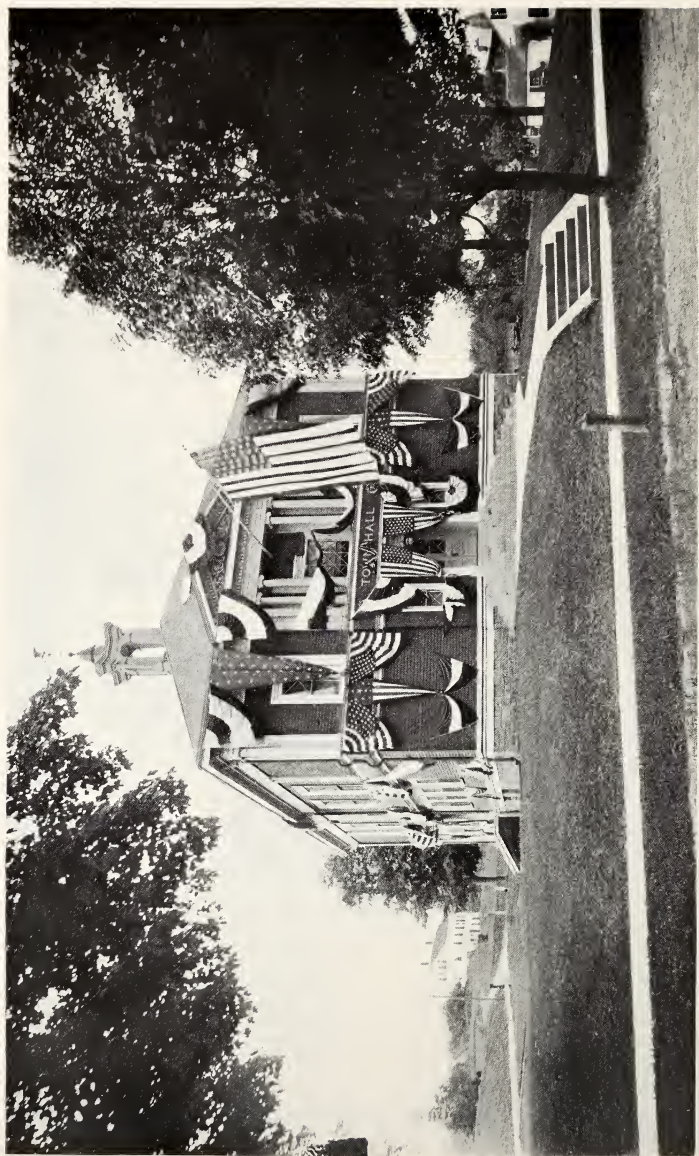
No person at all familiar with the topography of the town but what in reading that historical discourse must be impressed with the clearness of his pen-pictures as he leads the reader up and down the roads and streets in the town and points out the homes occupied by the various townspeople fifty to eighty years ago. In fact, the three pamphlets bearing his name, entitled, "Commemorative Services of the Semi-Centennial Anniversary of the Sabbath School," "Manual of the Congregational Church," and the "Historical Address delivered at the Re-Dedication of the Brick Meeting House, West Boylston," are exceedingly valuable contributions to the local history of the town, including a large portion of her inhabitants past and present.

❖ ————— ❖  
DEDICATION *of the* WEST BOYLSTON TOWN HALL  
❖ ————— ❖

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND THE  
DEDICATION OF THE WEST BOYLSTON TOWN HALL  
ON MONDAY, JANUARY THE EIGHTEENTH  
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND FOUR  
AT TWO O'CLOCK, P. M.

LEON A. GOODALE  
ALBERT W. HINDS  
EDGAR P. NEAL  
COMMITTEE

WEST BOYLSTON, MASS.  
JANUARY SIXTH, 1904



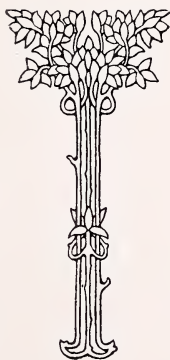
TOWN HALL, JULY 16, 1908



# DEDICATION

OF

THE TOWN HALL  
WEST BOYLSTON  
MASSACHUSETTS



MONDAY, JANUARY THE EIGHTEENTH  
AT TWO O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON

1904



THE BRICK MEETING HOUSE

**Building Committee**

Artemas C. Smith\*                      Andrew J. Scarlett  
Alexander Snow                      Willie B. Wood

**Dedication Committee**

The Selectmen :  
Andrew J. Scarlett      Alexander Snow  
Willie B. Wood

**Programme Committee**

Leon A. Goodale      Albert W. Hinds  
Edgar P. Neal

**Reception Committee**

John C. Hastings      Jeremiah Fisher  
Charles E. Merrifield      Charles W. Reed  
Arthur A. Caldwell

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\*Died December 10, 1902.

# PROGRAMME



MUSIC, *Schumann Male Quartette*

PRAYER, *Rev. John E. Dodge*

ADDRESS OF WELCOME, *Andrew J. Scarlett*

MUSIC

HISTORICAL ADDRESS, *Rev. Julius B. Robinson*

MUSIC

ADDRESS, *Dr. G. Stanley Hall*

MUSIC

GREETINGS FROM FORMER CITIZENS

MUSIC

*At eight o'clock there will be a concert  
and social in the Town Hall.*



## DEDICATION OF TOWN HALL,

MONDAY, JANUARY 18th, 1904.

With clear skies and bracing air, with a good attendance of old friends and residents of the town, the new town hall in West Boylston was dedicated today. The exercises were marked for the old home spirit that they stimulated, the words of former residents bringing forth hearty applause.

In view of the fact that the hall had no clock, Edward A. Cowee, a former resident and business man of the town, now of Worcester, said that he would present the town a clock. This is the only gift that the town has received for the new hall.

The guest of honor for the day was Dr. G. Stanley Hall of Worcester, president of Clark University. His address was on "Good citizenship," and was an exhaustive and comprehensive treatise on that subject. Rev. Julius B. Robinson, pastor of the Baptist church, who made the historical address, also came in for a great share of the applause. His essay, which was completed under adverse circumstances, was a model of its kind, and was attentively listened to.

As was expected, there was not a large attendance, the exercises in the evening drawing the larger crowd. The afternoon gathering was a representative body, and the younger element was not as well represented as it was at the dedication ball in the evening.

The exercises began at 2 o'clock, Andrew J. Scarlett, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, presiding. The first number on the program was singing by the Schumann quartet of Worcester, composed of Walter S. Knowles, W. F. Little, B. A. Barber and H. C. Robinson. Their first selection was "Loyal," by





ST. ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Kucken. Prayer was then offered by Rev. John E. Dodge, pastor of the West Boylston Congregational church.

Chairman Scarlett made a short address of welcome, telling of the work of the building committee, and spoke of the death of Artemas C. Smith, who died December 10, 1902. Mr. Smith was one of the members of the building committee.

Mr. Scarlett heartily welcomed all the former residents of West Boylston and referred with pride to the sons of the town who had gone out and made a name for themselves, thus reflecting credit on the town and the community. Mr. Scarlett's address was greeted with applause. Following this the Schumann quartet sang "Night Witchery."

Chairman Scarlett then introduced Rev. Julius B. Robinson who delivered the following Historical Address.



## HISTORICAL ADDRESS BY REV. J. B. ROBINSON.

After a century of existence lacking barely four years, this town dedicates today its first town hall. Not always has it been a homeless vagrant heretofore, for after alternating between the Baptist Vestry and Thomas Hall—owned and occupied by the Congregational Society—from 1846 to exactly the middle of the century, it held all meetings for the remaining half century in that Hall. From 1902, when the Baptist Church left its building in order to occupy a new one near the Common, all town meetings have been held in the Baptist Vestry again. Associations inseparable from the two places where public business was transacted have thus been appropriately moral and dignified.

Another suitable association attaches to the location of this new building, reinforced in interest by inclusion of the Public Library, for on this ground the Murdock public school has long contributed to the intelligence of successive accessions of fresh citizenship. Surely, such a building, replacing those long used, and standing on this ground, is the natural home of seriousness, earnestness, dignity, and maintenance of high ideals of public life and service.

To the Congregational church the town owes its political origin, and the geographical centre of its history is, therefore, the Common, broadly laid out for church location and occupied by an elegant edifice a year and a half before ecclesiastical organization was effected. Attempting to make the new parish a town, the people of this region succeeded only in obtaining from the Legislature incorporation as the second precinct of Boylston, Holden, and Sterling. The Act was signed June 14, 1796, by Governor Samuel Adams. Twelve years later the

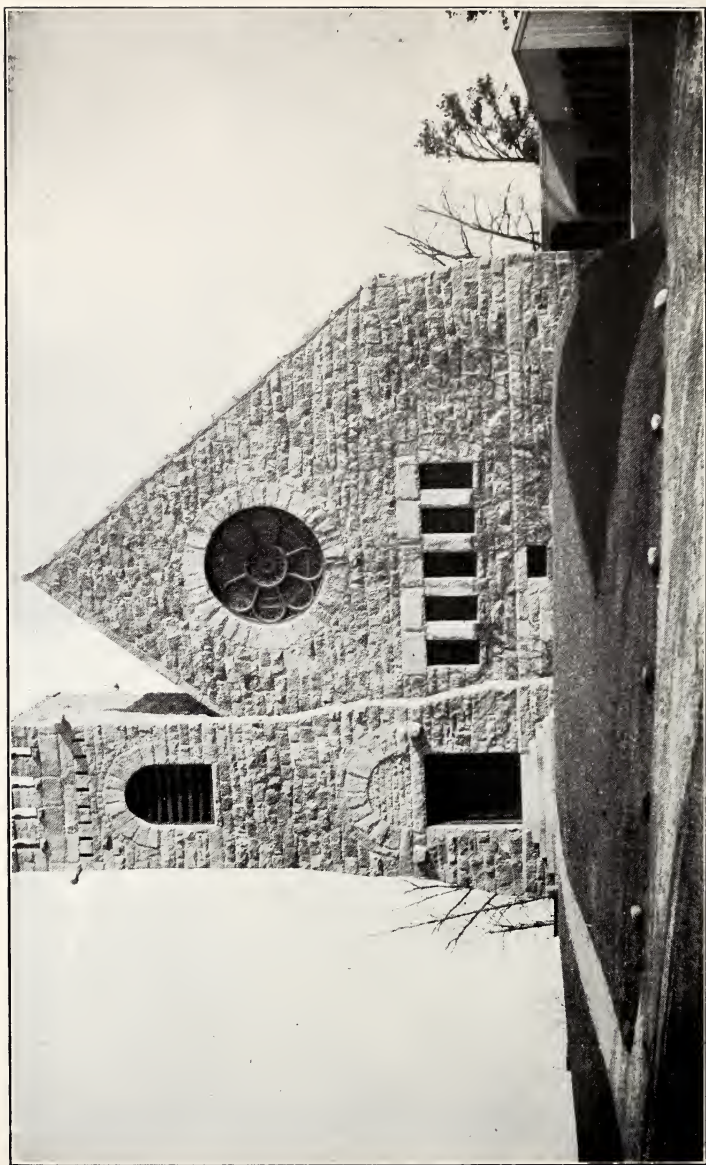
precinct was erected into an independent town. Though its limits drew in an eastern section of Holden, as well as a segment of Sterling, parish secession had been from Boylston and the church common had been within that town. Naturally the old designation passed over into the new name.

The Holden line, thus carried westward to the outer edge of the new town, ran perhaps half a mile or so west of this hall. Sterling furnished the northeast section, Boylston all the rest. Before becoming a separate town, Holden had been the north part of Worcester. Sterling was at first a west part of Lancaster, while Boylston had itself been set off from Shrewsbury. While, therefore, West Boylston was directly made up from Boylston, Sterling, and Holden, it occupied territory which, before these intermediate towns began their separate existence, was Lancaster, Worcester, and Shrewsbury. This building stands on ground that was first in Shrewsbury, then in Boylston, and the same is true of the other public buildings. Boundary lines were shifted and names were changed a good deal in the early times. In his autobiography Robert B. Thomas said he had "resided in four incorporated towns and two distinct parishes and one precinct, yet never moved from the same farm." He did not mention living in two countries, Great Britain and the United States.

In yet earlier times there were, probably, Indian homes. The soil has been somewhat fertile in arrow heads and other Indian relics, some of which seem to suggest more than hunting excursions and appear to indicate settled residence. Where the reservoir bed widens, the level intervale may have invited settlement, with ample corn fields near at hand, and surrounding hills where deer and wild turkeys tempted foraging arrows of dusky huntsmen. Certain it is that a Rutland trail from the headquarters of the Nashaway tribe at Lake Waushakum crossed Still river and passed near where the Methodist church now stands.

As three towns parted with territory to make West Boylston, which, in turn, were sections lost from three earlier and larger ones, so were there three yet earlier cessions of Indian territory.





THE STONE BAPTIST CHURCH



Sholan, sachem of the Nashaway tribe, whose seat of government and royal residence was at Lake Waushakum, made a grant of territory to Thomas King in 1643, less than a quarter of a century after Plymouth Landing. This was Nashawogg or Nashua, which, being made a town, was named Lancaster George Tahanto. Indian Sagamore and nephew of Sholan, enlarged this grant by a tract west of the other, which included Chocksett now called Sterling. Other Indians present and setting their mark on the deed which Sagamore George Tahanto signed with his mark, were Mary Aunsocamaug, John Wonsquon, John Aquitticus, and Peter Puckataugh. Out of Quinsigamon, now Worcester, Sagamore Quinqonassett, who lived at Packachoag Hill, sold a tract to Daniel Gookin and others July 13, 1674. Three triads of Indian territory, early township, and newer town, went successively to form this conglomerate unit with the dually composite name. Welded and annealed the resulting product breaks up hard. We have brought our nine lives out of the wreck of the once charming but now desolated valley and builded better on the highland. "After us the deluge."

Earliest white settlement is credited to Jacob Hinds, and dated 1720, one hundred years after settlement at Plymouth. Within ten or fifteen years other settlers began to come, and slow immigration appears to have continued through the eighteenth century. Nearly one hundred families were here, and not quite 600 people living in 98 houses, when the town was incorporated in 1808.

More than 150 ratable polls, then required for town incorporation, included only 105 legal voters. Among those debarred the franchise were nine heads of families. It is easy to suspect the discrepancy partly due to that union of church and state never fully dissolved until exactly a quarter of a century afterward, in 1833, a date well within the memory of men now living.

Like men, towns have personality and distinctive character, though simple, unified personality may seldom appear in a man or a town. Geography seems a determining factor in the prob-

lem of every great people's development, and often operates even in restricted local limits. A salient feature here is the river, which, to this day, has played an obvious part. But for the river there would have been no town hall dedication, and rivers, like town halls, are not sure to prove always pure and unmixed blessings. The once beautiful valley has its river still, but, for that river, is at last shorn of its charms and denuded.

Still River stole away from Mt. Wachusett to meet Quinapoxet here and form the south branch of the Nashua; this joined its north mate just below Lancaster's Colonial burying ground, and they went on together to the Merrimac where busy Nashua was yet to be. The Merrimac system is throughout industrious despite the idling disposition of the Concord dreaming philosophic and historic dreams. Along these river lines, from Penacook and beyond down to Lowell and beyond, is an incessant hum; unnumbered turbines churn the exuberant flood into golden product. In every act and feature the Merrimac system is like a group of busy, thrifty, enterprising women, New England born and bred. Hardly anywhere in the country was there a cotton mill before a West Boylston spindle was whirling and a West Boylston power loom turning miles of river current into yards of cotton fabric. Enterprise has always spurred the industrious town: a saw mill would be replaced by a scythe manufactory; a grist mill grew into a business having salesrooms in Worcester and requiring a private spur track for shipment here; two book-binders, one of whom was a publisher, were already here when the precinct became a township; the cabinet maker, shoe manufacturer, machinist, and clothier, the florist, the organ builder, these and more, have manifested the enterprising tendency which began before the life of the town. A farm develops into a dairy; physicians reared or practising here go as specialists elsewhere or hold wide practice at home; teachers from our schools go to positions in city schools or colleges; their pupils keep an eye out beyond public school boundaries toward institutions of collegiate grade. This tendency has not come by slow development and is not characteristic of later times alone, but can be traced from the site of the lower

factory, through the valley, and up both streams beyond where the Nashua itself began.

While local circumstances have their recognized developing effect, blood too will tell and leadership also tells. Early leadership was strong. No man represented it more than Ezra Beaman. The largest property holder happened to possess the personal endowments of a leader of men. In Keyes' Biographical sketch he is usually given his military title of Major, but in one place a misprint makes him Mayor Beaman. Worse mistakes occur, for whatever, and however important, his military and numerous civil offices, no one doubts that Ezra Beaman was Mayor of West Boylston. As a citizen of Shrewsbury when this was Shrewsbury, then of Boylston for the setting apart of which he was head petitioner, and afterward of West Boylston of which he was the father, he was an efficient leader. Ten times elected as one of the Selectmen of Shrewsbury, he was Chairman of the Board first in Boylston then in West Boylston. Nothing was more natural than that he should be first town treasurer first chairman of the selectmen and, without one opposing vote, first representative to the Legislature where he remained until he died. To trace highways, note prominent buildings, and track progressive business enterprises, would be to encounter vestiges of the judgment and efficient activity of this remarkable man. Followed as a leader while he lived, when buried he was attended by a funeral procession which, returning from Beaman burying ground, reached back to his house before the last of the long column had started toward the grave. As a soldier he had been at Bunker Hill when his townsman General Ward was commander in chief at Cambridge, as a citizen he had been at the front in every new enterprise and taken the brunt of every battle.

If he is better known by deeds than words, no lack of either was left by Robert B. Thomas, first town clerk, several times chairman of the selectmen, repeatedly a member of the Legislature, as well as representative of the town in the Convention of 1820 which revised the Massachusetts State Constitution of 1780. He was a large property holder, and conducted a book

bindery out of which developed the Old Farmers' Almanac which he founded in 1793 and edited more than half a century. He was the largest contributor to Thomas Hall, named for him, in which a town meeting was first held four months and four days after his death in 1846. If these and men associated with them set the pace for this town, and if its river naturally bore their influence along on an unfailing current, its business enterprise does not wholly lack a key to interpretation.

Add to this intelligence and love of knowledge such as drew together the little club of students in science that gathered about the venerable horologist and with him studied the stars, that meanwhile not only drew upon schools but also fostered them, add religious earnestness which sometimes burned its fire on the altar of controversy, with moral character that makes the graves of our predecessors honorable, and we may find at once interpretation of the past and incitement for the future.

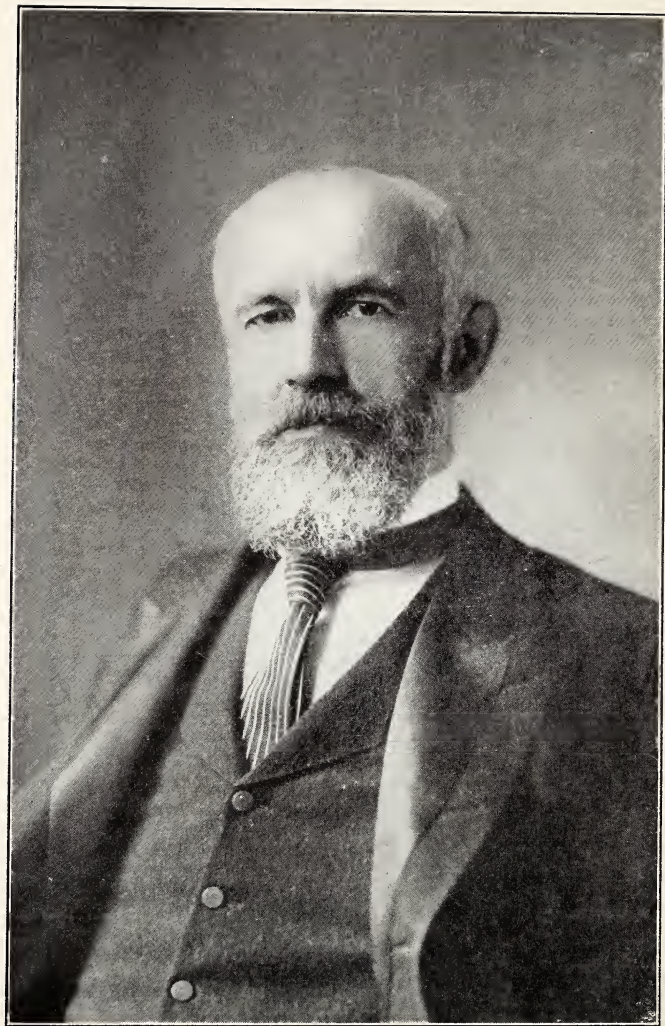
Not one of those first voters will cast a ballot in this hall. Struggles and divisions of counsel they had in their time but old controversies are silent, the hour of final adjournment has made peace and together they have passed over to the majority. As we who follow them enter this new hall coming from a building dedicated to that government which is supreme, let us see to it that, as heretofore so hereafter, each new voter coming to the place where he assumes the high duty of suffrage shall find its associations bracing his character and guiding his duty. Let us resolve that we will do our part to make its acts of legislation worthy of conscientious citizenship; its elective utterance consistent with the loyal past, encouraging to a hopeful future; its uses harmonious with the normal and dignified purposes of the building; its doors wide open equally to all, and its honorable record kept worthy of pristine Americanism and the starry flag that never floated freely save in the open air.

Ever in a free Commonwealth are two great combinations of forces and tendencies operating—the constructive and destructive. Parties come and go and party names cease or change, yet two parties abide immortal through all convulsion, all protracted alteration or decay. Ever fresh and active, they in-

clude, respectively, the men who build up and the men who tear down. Between these the fight is always on. The brigades make huge din in Commonwealths, companies and scouts fight more obscurely in every little town. We cannot evade the battle; we ought neither to wish nor dare to let this new garri-son house see the recreancy of degenerate sons of noble sires. Churches have given this town birth and political home. Rich with churchly association and inheritance, to what do we now dedicate this new building? How can we better dedicate a building representing government than to the King of Kings? Can we rise to the high conception and dedicate it now to God?

After the singing of a selection by the quartet, Chairman Scarlett introduced Dr. G. Stanley Hall of Worcester, president of Clark University. Dr. Hall took for his subject, "Good Citizenship."





DR. G. STANLEY HALL OF WORCESTER  
PRESIDENT OF CLARK UNIVERSITY



## ADDRESS BY DR. G. STANLEY HALL.

“Although personally a stranger to many of you, we are not only neighbors, but have today one common bond of sympathy, for in a peculiar sense I regret with you the absence from this program of the Ex-Secretary of the Navy,\* an illustrious patriot, statesman and orator, who is bound to you by local ties that made him your logical spokesman to bring out the lessons of the day, and whose words would make even a less occasion memorable. The recollections of the dedication of our own City Hall are so fresh in the minds of Worcester citizens that I know I may present their hearty congratulations, as well as my own, for we know something of the satisfaction you must all feel.

“While our edifice was building, and still more just afterward, we experienced something of a revival of local pride and interest in good citizenship. We revised and improved our charter, and there was a marked awakening of zest in public affairs. Positions in the city government became more dignified, were filled, on the whole, by better men, and there was especially in the community at large a broader and more intelligent view of local problems. It is this that suggests to me that I can choose no fitter theme than to try roughly and briefly to indicate a few of the traits that mark the good citizen.

“But before entering upon this topic, I must make one premise. It is one duty of the academic teacher to everywhere seek to cultivate idealism, so if as I proceed it shall occur to any of you that the good citizen I describe may live in Plato’s ideal state or in the New Jerusalem, but not in Worcester or in West Boylston, and perhaps not anywhere, I begin with a frank confession that this is true, and that my own practice is not up to my theory, and that as I proceeded in preparing this address I realized more and more that in many of the following items I

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\*Hon. John D. Long.

have not myself in the past been a very good citizen, and that from this time on I am resolved at least to try to be a better one.

“There have been times and places in the past when citizenship was an honor reserved for the few. Plato would have it conferred almost like a university degree. It has involved oaths, consecrations and qualifications of birth, wealth and intelligence now quite obsolete. Indeed we have now gone quite to the opposite extreme and its prerogatives have been so cheapened that instead of being a special boon it has become so commonplace and matter of course that its homeliest duties and obligations are often forgotten. So far has this gone that some eminent students of government have deliberately advanced not only a progressively higher scale of educational qualifications and probationary tests, but have even proposed to insist upon moral standards by disfranchisement not only for all those convicted of certain crimes—bribery, corruption and vote selling—but for quite a list of dishonorable acts. By these means they have hoped slowly to raise the standard of full membership in the body politic and to invest it with more dignity and honor. Let us try then to count off a few of the attributes of an ideal good citizen.

“1—He should know something of the laws under which he lives; should have read and studied the charter of his own city; should know personally something of its institutions, its library, hospitals, houses of detention and correction, its provisions to insure the public health, and all that immediately pertains to his own rights and duties. In our early New England communities many men, as they advance in years, become squires who were authorities even in the smallest communities on all minor and most local matters. This does not mean that every man can become his own lawyer, still less that he should know the contents of the tons of law books a recent writer says are necessary in a large, model law office, but he should know what pertains to all local charities, and should consider both local economies and deficiencies and their methods. To this end I have long urged instruction in what is often termed civics in our schools,

perhaps with visits to institutions as object lessons in order to make the duty to the community a moral obligation, and also to make it intelligent. How many of us here today have satisfied this requirement? Certainly I for one have not lived up to the full measure of this ideal.

“2—The good citizen will do all in his power to obey and to help enforce the letter and the spirit of the laws. He will not seek to evade them in his individual or in his corporate capacity. Of course, we must not carry this so far as to disallow the right of revolt or even revolution against laws that are really iniquitous. This is always a sacred palladium of liberty in the community and of the individual conscience. Even defective laws should be treated with respect, and when in doubt the decision should always be conformity and not violation. Our statute books are full of inoperative laws that are a dead letter, and the enforcement of some has never been seriously attempted, but we have often, especially since Roosevelt tried it as police commissioner of New York, learned that the best way of securing the repeal of unjust laws is to enforce them literally.

“Man is a political animal, and by his very nature must bow to the collective will, because not only in general everybody is wiser than anybody, but because bad laws are often the fault of the citizens' lack of vigilance. Even Jesus, the founder of our faith, submitted to injustice. When Socrates was imprisoned and awaiting the fatal hemlock, and friends paved the way for his escape and urged the gross injustice of his sentence, in a vision a veiled figure of the laws of Greece stood before him at night and said: ‘I have nurtured you from infancy, I protected and educated you so that in a spiritual sense you are my child and owe me allegiance,’ and thus he preferred to die rather than to violate even an unrighteous decree. In this sense, then, the good citizen, knowing well the law, will respect not only its letter, but its spirit.

“3—The good citizen will pay his taxes cheerfully, promptly and completely. He will wish to reserve nothing from the appraisal list. This, too, he will make a matter of civic honor. He will reflect that he profits to the full extent by the roads,



the protection of the laws, schools and other public institutions, and will desire to do his full share to support them. The very term taxes and tax collector is sometimes obnoxious, especially in these days of increasing rates, but here again, under the great law of division of labor there is probably no investment that brings a larger return than for taxes. To shirk or evade these and thus throw our burden upon others, especially for the rich to throw the expenses of local government upon the poor in a community, is bad citizenship. We must probably expect that tax rates will increase, and we must do all in our power to ensure their more and more equitable distribution.

“4—Next to this duty I should place that of attending the caucus. This in wards and preeincts has inherited not a few of the functions of the old-fashioned town meeting—the palladium of liberty in the early rural communities. A voice here is often far more effective than a vote in elections. The chief business of the caucus is to steer good men in and bad men out of candidacies. The briefless lawyers, the men out of a job, petty bosses with their still pettier henchmen, boodlers and chronic office seekers, \$300 men seeking \$3000 places, schemers with their slates, those who trade and dicker with patronage—some or all of these exist in most communities, large and even small, and they are best antagonized in the caucus, which is often the storm center of the fight for good local government. Everything here ought to be free and questions and candidacies open, but now we sometimes have even the preliminary caucus, and wherever this is held the good citizen will penetrate and let his voice be heard.

“5—The good citizen will have it on his conscience to vote at every election. Every real vote involves intelligent and moral purpose. It is our duty to know something of the candidates whose names appear upon our ticket and, if possible, to be able to give an intelligent and truthful reason for our choice. The effects of weather upon elections is not an edifying topic to a truly democratic republican. He would brave a storm and penetrate to the farthest corner of a gerrymandered district if



his personal business were at stake; why not all the more when that of the public is concerned?

“One of the most impressive facts to me has always been that of the president of the United States, often journeying far, to cast his single vote, although he knows that some unlettered and unwashed renegade, just naturalized and bribed with a dollar, can neutralize his vote. There is a good old ring in the well-worn phrase, ‘the freeman casting with unpurchased hand the vote that shakes the turrets of the land.’ We should reflect more upon the fact that each individual does count for one than upon the fact that he counts for only one.

“6—My ideal citizen, if sought for an office, will accept it, however humble, and will not let it go begging. He will feel that the voice of the people in this respect is the call of God. The ideal office holder in our smaller communities will be a man with a business of his own and not dependent on the public crib for his daily food, and he will gladly bear some personal inconvenience and make some sacrifice of personal interest if he is called to do so. Sometimes I have even thought that the European way of man, who knows he is fit, announcing his candidacy with no secret overtures, pledges or backers, would in some cases make for both the dignity and efficiency of an office. All these public functions should be exercised by people known to the community at large that the voter may be freed from the suspicion that unknown men are unworthy and also relieved from the onerous duty of investigating each name upon his ticket. China and Germany, under two very different systems, may be said to almost confer the degree of fit for office. Every position has its educational qualifications. As the student goes up the grades each opens more offices to him. Mayors are educated and have a diploma. Their function is a profession, and cities sometimes rival each other in bidding for those of proved efficiency.

“When the Niagara Improvement Company advertised for the best physicist in the land to tell them how they could overcome the enormous friction of a stream of water 12 feet wide, falling 130 feet on a turbine, with a 12-inch shaft of the same weight, a

friction that involved great loss of power, Professor Rowland of the John Hopkins University came forward with the simple plan of having the stream curve around at the bottom and strike the turbine from below upward, thus almost exactly overcoming the friction. He wrought the scheme out in a few minutes and charged \$10,000, at which the Company, which could easily have afforded to pay twenty times that amount, demurred, and in the trial the professor was asked whom he regarded as the most eminent physicist in the country. He replied, 'I am,' which everybody would have admitted was true. When afterwards his friends remonstrated with him for this reply, which seemed to them egotistic, he replied, 'But I was under oath and had to tell the truth.' Thus a just sense of one's qualifications for any duty, office or function, justifies seeking it, but this alone. I have tried to study education for years but I never sought office and do not believe I could be elected on a Worcester school board in my own ward, but what troubles my conscience is that if I were elected I fear I should not have the virtue to serve because of the sacrifice, and I think it would not be egotistic to confess that I would be a bad citizen.

"7—Another duty of the citizen is to speak out when things go wrong. I have no sympathy with the chronic grumbler and critic who finds everything rotten in our civic life, who is always scenting corruption where it does not exist, who accepts no explanations but the worst; but I have no whit more respect for the citizen whose maxim is, 'Make no enemies.' I believe it is everyone's duty to make enemies and to let his virtue be known by the kind of enemies he makes. There is enough virtue in every town to keep it pure, if it would only come forward and be patent and not latent. I love to hear the pulpit sometimes speak out with emphasis where moral questions are involved or to see signed letters of remonstrance in the press. I deem it cowardly to let evil go unrebuked. The strenuous life demands that the individual should judge and judge intensely and vigorously. Gossip at its best is a potent psychological engine.

The good citizen should also feel it his duty to let no good act go unpraised. Quintillian declared that one of the chief offices of the orator was to eulogize every good and great deed done in the community, and Beecher said that no funeral sermon should be preached that did not discriminatingly sum up and award its meed of praise to the best qualities of the dead. Tacitus tells us, if I remember aright, that the ancient Scythians had a large chair upholstered with the leather made from the skins of judges who had pronounced unjust judgments, and in this chair, as an awful warning, every judge must sit when he rendered a verdict. But it is much better for us as we sit in our untanned hides to remember the moral of this custom when we are tempted to violate the Bible adage, 'Judge not, lest ye be judged.'

"8—Local pride and even patriotism begins in each man's dooryard. It is the very kindergarten duty of good citizenship to keep this tidy and to make it add something to the beauty of the street, to adorn it with flowers and shrubs, to perform the homely function of shoveling our paths promptly after storms and scatter ashes on the ice. Like everything else, the best virtues begin at home. Zeal for good roads, drinking fountains and watering troughs, numbers on the houses, street signs, and I would even add public latrines, every monument, inscription on an old site or dwelling, or on a stone to mark an historic spot, every act of village improvement—all these are items of significance and tend to make even the smallest localities attractive to the young, who are too prone to leave them, and also to create a wholesome local pride.

"9—I will even venture to add another duty with which you may not all agree. I believe that the good citizen and voter, unless there is some special reason to the contrary, will marry, have a home of his own, be the head of a household and the father of children. I am no faddist on this theme. I recognize that there are exceptions. I am not ready to vote a progressive tax on all bachelors after the age of thirty, but I do believe that public opinion is now slowly beginning to set in this direction and that in the future it is liable to ask more and more insistently of every able-bodied, intelligent man, who can earn the

means of support, and who does not marry, why! Not only is the home the heart of the town, the state, the country, the world, and heredity the most ancient form of wealth and worth, but the science of biology is urging with more and more insistence that the best test of an individual or the race, is the power to bring healthy children into the world and to rear them to full and complete maturity. The promise to Abraham of old was that if he kept covenant with God, his seed should be as the stars of heaven for multitude, and the enormous growth of the Jews in all lands seems like a fulfillment of this prophecy. If this be true, the decay of American families and the increase of abandoned farms is a sad commentary upon our solution of perhaps the greatest of all the tests of public and private well-being.

"10—Once more, and with some hesitation, I would raise here the question whether it is not the duty of every man of means, who makes a will, to bequeath in it something for the benefit of the community in which that wealth was acquired. Many laws, ancient and modern, not only tax inheritance, but by years of jubilee and in other ways sequester large fortunes for the good of the public. I know the dangers of mortmain or the dead hand and how in older countries large properties are tied up by conditions of donors generations and centuries ago, who insisted on attaching conditions that in later generations were found to actually violate the purpose had in mind. Next to the virtue of being ashamed to die rich, however, is that of so making one's last will and testament that it shall bring relief to suffering, service to the public, advantage to higher education, or in some other way recognize the great fact that no man liveth or dieth to himself. In those communities sure to increase with the progress of years in a country like ours, where the living thus profit by the thoughtfulness of the dead, I would have their memories kept green.

"We need not worship ancestors like the Chinese, but we should remember with gratitude all those great and thoughtful souls that have attempted to make the world that was to come after them better and richer in opportunities than it would

otherwise have been. I would have something of the lives of all great local benefactors piously taught in the schools, that their purpose be kept living and their names known and respected by the young.

“11—In times of great crisis, when vital national issues are at stake, no one need to be reminded that the good citizen will fight, and, if need be, lay down his life for his country. War is, alas, sometimes a stern necessity, and while most men in most times can best serve righteousness by their lives, they are sometimes called to die for what they live for. There is no nobler exhibition of man’s profoundly social and gregarious nature than that he is ready for great causes to make this supreme sacrifice. The lives of those who have answered thus the call of the state make the purest, best, reddest blood of heroism, on which the souls of youth grow to be themselves heroic. I have little faith in the programs of universal peace and I am not sure that in the present estate of men the wager of battle is not sometimes necessary to weed out the unfit and to bring to the front the power of higher motives that slumber through the entire lives of most of us.

“12—Have we not nearly reached a point where municipalities, large and small, should be administered on business principles? I believe in parties and belong to one, but I have for years felt it my duty in local affairs to vote for the best man irrespective of party as well as creed. This is not mugwumpery. Everyone knows that if any man’s private affairs were administered with the same loose and uneconomic methods as those with which most towns are managed, his business would fail. Is this right? Is it necessary? Must there be, should there be jobs, soft snaps, precious franchises freely given for long tenures, unnecessary work provided to keep the unemployed busy, or high wages for poor work?

“Here is the weakest point in our whole American system, and one in which we may well hang our heads in shame when we compare our local government with that in most European lands. I believe there is progress, however, even here, very slow though it be. Boards of trade have done something to



stimulate better methods, but the public purse is rarely safeguarded and a *quid pro quo*, dollar for dollar, rarely exacted, such as we would all require in private expenditures. Business is an immense machine, the laws of which no one knows, not even the political economist. It is more and more controlling. Its methods are pervading church, school, public life, giving us new ideals of art and even manners and absorbing the best young talent of the world, but it is not yet recognized that the city is only a big corporation and should be administered with severe and rigid enforcement of every principle of economy and efficiency. Ideally, it should set fashions in these respects to every business in it.

“13—Finally, the school and its administration is a civic duty. No institution is so world-wide in its extent or so influential. Comprehensive school systems are found in Africa, North and South, and in India, and Professor Fitch has told us that one of the best in the world is in Madagascar, open there to the savage Maori. There has probably never been such a universal consensus as that which supports education today. Men differ in everything else, but believe enthusiastically in the schools. The world goes to school. In very many smaller communities school buildings are the largest and best in town, and this is well. The condition of the schoolyard is, I believe, a matter of civic pride, and I have heard it called an index of the vigor of local patriotism. School boards of communities often have charge of the largest of all expenditures. These boards should be small and given great responsibility, and held to commensurate accountability. I am inclined to agree with our governor that on these matters women, who constitute today more than three-fourths of the teachers of the country, should have a vote if they want it, and should want it. Its members should always be the best and wisest men in town. Into their hands the future is committed.

“President White has told us of a school board somewhere in New York state, where some matters of school hygiene it had passed upon were brought into court, and it occurred to a young lawyer to ask one of the members of this sapient school

board what hygiene was, and he replied that it was a stagnant, slimy pool of water with a green film over it.

“You remember a few years ago, when in one of the largest cities of the country the school board was discussing a motion to place twelve gondolas upon a shallow pond in the park for the delectation of the children, a new member gravely arose and said that he wished his first word in that board to be for economy, and that therefore instead of twelve gondolas he would suggest one male and one female gondola, and trust nature to make it twelve.

“A colleague of mine tells the story of a southern squire, who, as he grew old and tired of judging tedious problems, told his son, who succeeded him in office, that he had adopted the principle of only hearing one side of the cases brought before him for decision, because hearing the other side confused his mind. School matters should more and more come into the hands of experts, but here, too, I am no pessimist, for I believe at any rate that in our smaller communities the best men usually serve in this office.

“You will all think of many more traits of the ideal citizen. The great enemy of municipal life in this country today is absorption in individual gain and neglect of public duties. This has been pointed out a thousand times, but there is no real remedy except to lay the matter upon our conscience on every occasion. Some compensate for the neglect of near duties by enthusiasm for those that are afar. I have read of a lady in New York attending a missionary meeting and weeping over the suffering and death of Alexander Mackay, the hero of Uganda, while her coachman was frozen to death waiting for her outside. I was invited to dine with half a dozen others at the house of a prominent lady, who kept us waiting and hungry for half an hour while she was attending a meeting of a woman's club, which was worked up to a white heat over the question whether Representative Smoot of Utah had one wife or two.

“Our philanthropy in these days of expansion is very liable to diffuse itself to cosmic duties and make us forget the nearest

duties for those that are farthest. The problems of citizenship are many and great. In Russia I once attended a meeting of the mir. It was a town meeting of those who a little more than a generation ago were serfs. It was held out of doors on the common. A city hall is the slow evolution of the old tribal house of the primitive clans of savage men. It ought to be the citadel of all local civic virtue kept pure from every touch of corruption and be forever sacred to the highest interests of the town. As it is dedicated today, let us all rededicate ourselves to the cause of good local government, to doing the nearest civic duty and to subordination, wherever it is necessary, of personal to communal well-being."

The address was greeted with prolonged applause.

The remainder of the afternoon was taken up with short addresses by former residents of the town. The first called upon was Henry F. Harris of Worcester, formerly a member of the West Boylston Manufacturing Company, and now one of the leading attorneys of Worcester. Mr. Harris said that he was proud to be a native of the town, and that he had taken part in the town affairs for many years. He expressed his sorrow of learning of the demolition of the town, but added that he was glad to see that it had arisen from the ruins and become a town of progress and industry. In closing he predicted a brilliant future for the town with a chance of becoming one of the leading towns of the commonwealth.

Warren Goodale of Clinton, recently elected county commissioner, was next called upon by Selectman Scarlett. Mr. Goodale had been asked to speak of his early reminiscences of the town. In his address he paid a tribute to Miss Sarah J. Brown, for many years a teacher in the public schools, and one of the teachers that were responsible for Mr. Goodale's education. "She gave up nearly her whole life for teaching," added Mr. Goodale, "and was one of the best teachers that the town ever had." Mr. Goodale spoke of his former associations and brought back old scenes and recollections.

Rev. P. A. McQuillian, S. J., a member of the faculty of Holy Cross college, Worcester, addressed the meeting. He had been asked to speak on the town as it was. First he congratulated the town on its hall and greeted the townspeople cordially. Fr. McQuillian, in the course of his address, congratulated Henry O. Sawyer upon his recent election as mayor of Fitchburg. This gratulation elicited long and hearty applause.

Fr. McQuillian spoke touchingly of the scenes and reminiscences of his childhood and closed with hearty wishes for the success of the town.

Mayor Henry O. Sawyer of Fitchburg, recently of West Boylston, was greeted with prolonged applause when he arose, and it was some time before he was able to speak. Mayor Sawyer has been in Fitchburg but four years, but was elected mayor of that city in December by the largest vote ever cast in a Fitchburg city election. He brought the well wishes of the city of Fitchburg to the town of West Boylston, and offered his personal congratulations to the townspeople.

E. A. Cowee, ex-representative from the district to which West Boylston belongs and a former business man of the place, when called upon presented the town a clock for the hall. Mr. Cowee said that he had noticed that there was not a timepiece in the hall, and thought that by presenting one, it would be a good way to perpetuate the name of Cowee.

Leander Ross of Boston, a native of the town and a state senator, was called upon and offered his congratulations.

Louis Cutting of Worcester, who was asked to speak, was unable to be present on account of illness.

The ushers were: William T. Holmes, Walter E. Robbins, Walter A. Bowen, Daniel A. Lynch and Lewis W. Sawyer.

These guests were seated on the platform: Dr. G. Stanley Hall, president of Clark university, Worcester; Mayor Henry O. Sawyer of Fitchburg; Rev. P. A. McQuillian, Holy Cross college, Worcester; County commissioner Warren Goodale, Clinton; Rev. John E. Dodge, West Boylston; Rev. Julius B. Robinson, West Boylston; Atty. Henry F. Harris, Worcester; Samuel S. Russell, Worcester; Edward A. Cowee, Worcester; Myron W. Houghton, Worcester; Frank Hildreth, Worcester; the selectmen of West Boylston, Andrew J. Scarlett, Alexander Snow, Willie B. Wood.

In the evening there was the dedication ball. The attendance was the largest that has ever assembled for a dance, parties coming from Clinton, Sterling, Holden, Boylston and Shrewsbury. Harry E. Brigham's orchestra of Marlboro gave a concert program of five numbers from 8 to 9. At 9 o'clock the march was formed for the first dance in the town hall, Frank H. Baldwin and Miss Edna C. Baldwin leading the march. There were about 50 couples in line. Supper was served by Whitney of Clinton.

The hall was decorated with a huge inverted Japanese umbrella hung from the center of the hall. To each corner ran streamers of red and white bunting, the whole making a pretty and effective decoration. Potted plants and palms were used on the stage.

The floor director was Albert O. Bullard, and the aides, Alexander McKenzie, Arthur H. Sawyer, W. B. Wood, W. Clifford Scarlett, George T. Rand, William E. Storms, Frank H. Baldwin, George F. Smith and Carleton A. Cook.

The reception committee consisted of Andrew J. Scarlett, Alexander Snow, John C. Hastings, Walter E. Chapman, Charles S. Whittemore, Warren J. Merriam, Edward A. Cowee and Linus G. Harris.





THOMAS HALL  
WHERE FOR MANY YEARS TOWN MEETINGS WERE HELD



# LIST OF TOWN OFFICIALS.

A list of certain town officials elected at the annual March meetings follows. The names of those chosen to fill vacancies do not appear unless elected at the subsequent annual meeting.

## TOWN CLERKS.

Robert B. Thomas,	1808
Joseph Hinds,	- 1809—1812
Ezra Bigelow,	1813—1822
Francis Davis,	1823—1824
Seth White,	1825—1829
Ephraim Bigelow,	1830—1836
Benjamin F. Keyes,	1837—1839
Barney Howe,	1840—1849
Oliver B. Sawyer,	1850—1854
Horatio Houghton,	1855—1864
Henry F. Holt,	1865
Edward Howe,	1866—1868
Henry O. Sawyer,	1869
Horatio Houghton,	1870—1895
William T. Holmes,	1896—19—

## SELECTMEN.

1808	1810
Ezra Beaman, Chairman	Ezra Beaman, Chairman
Jonathan Plimpton	Paul Goodale
William Fairbank	Barnabas Davis
Silas Beaman	Silas Newton
Amos Lovell	Jacob Hinds
1809	1811
Ezra Beaman, Chairman	Ezra Beaman, Chairman
Paul Goodale	William Fairbank
William Fairbank	Barnabas Davis
Silas Beaman	Jacob Hinds
John Temple	Silas Newton

1812

William Fairbank, Chairman  
Paul Goodale  
Robert B. Thomas  
Barnabas Davis  
Jacob Hinds

1818

John Temple, Chairman  
Joseph Hinds  
Ezra Bigelow  
William Fairbank  
Ezekiel Pierce

1813

John Temple, Chairman  
Joseph Hinds  
Hiram Howe  
Alpheus Fairbank  
Ebenezer Paine

1819

Robert B. Thomas, Chairman  
Ezra Beaman (Jr.)  
Thomas Keyes  
John Lees  
Barach B. Fairbank

1814

John Temple, Chairman  
Joseph Hinds  
Hiram Howe  
Ezra Bigelow  
Caleb Sweney

1820

Ezra Bigelow, Chairman  
Silas Newton  
John Read  
Paul Gerrish  
Ebenezer Paine

1815

John Temple, Chairman  
Joseph Hinds  
Ezra Bigelow  
Caleb Sweney  
Jonathan Plimpton

1821

Ezra Bigelow, Chairman  
Silas Newton  
Paul Gerrish  
Levi Goodale  
Francis Davis

1816

John Temple, Chairman  
Joseph Hinds  
Ezra Bigelow  
Barnabas Davis  
William Fairbank

1822

Ezra Bigelow, Chairman  
Silas Newton  
Levi Goodale  
Simon Plimpton  
Oliver Moore

1817

John Temple, Chairman  
Joseph Hinds  
Ezra Bigelow  
Ezra Beaman (Jr.)  
William Fairbank

1823-'24

Robert B. Thomas, Chairman  
Ezra Beaman (Jr.)  
Levi Goodale  
Jacob Pierce  
Abel Goodale

1825-'26

Joseph Hinds, Chairman  
Barnabas Davis  
Thomas Keyes  
Brigham Prescott  
Silas Newton

1832

Asa Bigelow, Chairman  
Ezekiel Pierce  
Aaron Goodale  
John M. Smith  
Samuel Brown

1827

Joseph Hinds, Chairman  
Thomas Keyes  
Silas Newton  
Seth White  
Levi Pierce, Jr.

1833

Joseph White, Chairman  
Ephraim Bigelow  
Aaron Goodale  
Dennis Harthan  
Charles Nash

1828

Francis Davis, Chairman  
Joseph White  
Ezekiel Pierce  
Thomas Holmes  
Dennis Harthan

1834

Dennis Harthan, Chairman  
Benjamin F. Keyes  
James H. Moore  
John Lees  
Thomas White, Jr.

1829

Joseph Hinds, Chairman  
Asa Bigelow  
Ezekiel Pierce  
Thomas Holmes  
Dennis Harthan

1835

Dennis Harthan, Chairman  
Thomas White, Jr.  
Cicero Hinds

1830

Joseph White, Chairman  
Francis Davis  
Thomas Holmes  
Aaron Goodale  
Silas Walker

Benjamin F. Keyes, Chairman  
Thomas Holmes  
Amos Lovell

1837

Thomas Holmes, Chairman  
Amos Lovell  
Ebenezer M. Hosmer

1831

Silas Newton, Chairman  
Asa Bigelow  
Ezekiel Pierce  
Levi Pierce, Jr.  
Amos Lovell

1838-'39

Ebenezer M. Hosmer, Chairman  
Moses Brigham  
Levi Pierce

1840

Joseph White, Chairman  
Levi Pierce  
Ezekiel Pierce

1847

Lotan Cleveland, Chairman  
Eli W. Holbrook  
Addison Lovell

1841

Joseph White, Chairman  
Ezekiel Pierce  
James H. Moore

1848

Lotan Cleveland, Chairman  
Addison Lovell  
John D. Lovell

1842

Ebenezer M. Hosmer, Chairman  
Lotan Cleveland  
Ward B. Harthan  
Samuel Brown  
Edmund F. Brigham

1849

David C. Murdock, Chairman  
John D. Lovell  
Lemuel D. Newton

1850

David C. Murdock, Chairman  
Lemuel D. Newton  
John Lawrence

1843

Lotan Cleveland, Chairman  
Ward B. Harthan  
Samuel Brown  
Edmund F. Brigham  
David C. Murdock

1851

David C. Murdock, Chairman  
Benjamin F. Keyes  
Lemuel D. Newton

1844

David C. Murdock, Chairman  
James H. Moore  
Samuel Lawrence

1852

Benjamin F. Keyes, Chairman  
Addison Lovell  
Jonathan Pierce

1845

David C. Murdock, Chairman  
James H. Moore  
John May

1853

Addison Lovell, Chairman  
Jonathan Pierce  
Linus M. Harris

1846

Lotan Cleveland, Chairman  
James H. Moore  
John May

1854

Jonathan Pierce, Chairman  
Linus M. Harris  
John Prentiss

1855

Linus M. Harris, Chairman  
John Prentiss  
George F. Howe

1865

David C. Murdock, Chairman  
Edmund F. Brigham  
Lafayette Hawes

1856

John Prentiss, Chairman  
George F. Howe  
Samuel Lawrence

1866

Edmund F. Brigham, Chairman  
John Lawrence  
Wallace McFarland

1857-'58

Samuel Lawrence, Chairman  
Levi Goss  
Henry F. Holt

1867

Wallace McFarland, Chairman  
David P. Waite  
Linus M. Harris

1859

Levi Goss, Chairman  
Henry F. Holt  
Windsor N. White

1868

David C. Murdock, Chairman  
Linus M. Harris  
Albert Hinds

1860

Windsor N. White, Chairman  
Linus M. Harris  
John May

1869

Albert Hinds, Chairman  
Linus M. Harris  
Stephen Holt

1861

Charles H. Baldwin, Chairman  
Levi Goss  
William Thomas

1870-'71

Whipple B. Harris, Chairman  
Edward Howe  
Stephen Holt

1862-'63

David C. Murdock, Chairman  
Nahum Hastings  
James H. Moore

1872

Stephen Holt, Chairman  
Linus M. Harris  
Thomas Harlow

1864

David C. Murdock, Chairman  
Nahum Hastings  
John S. Cutting

1873-'74-'75

Stephen Holt, Chairman  
Linus M. Harris  
Henry Pierce



1876

Linus M. Harris, Chairman  
Henry Pierce  
Stephen H. Smith

1885-'86

Stephen H. Smith, Chairman  
Harrison E. Morton  
Samuel P. Hallock

1877

Stephen H. Smith, Chairman  
Samuel S. Russell  
John F. Knight

1887

Harrison E. Morton, Chairman  
Samuel P. Hallock  
David P. Waite

1878

Stephen H. Smith, Chairman  
Stephen F. Hemenway  
David P. Waite

1888

Harrison E. Morton, Chairman  
J. Edward Pierce  
David P. Waite

1879

Stephen H. Smith, Chairman  
Stephen F. Hemenway  
Henry O. Sawyer

1889

Harrison E. Morton, Chairman  
J. Edward Pierce  
Samuel P. Hallock

1880-'81

Stephen F. Hemenway, Chairman  
Aaron Goodale  
William R. Walker

1890

J. Edward Pierce, Chairman  
Henry O. Sawyer  
Louis Cutting

1882

Aaron Goodale, Chairman  
William R. Walker  
John C. Hastings

1891

J. Edward Pierce, Chairman  
Louis Cutting  
Samuel P. Hallock

1883

Stephen H. Smith, Chairman  
John C. Hastings  
Ashley H. Wood

1892

J. Edward Pierce, Chairman  
Samuel P. Hallock  
Artemas C. Smith

1884

Stephen H. Smith, Chairman  
Ashley H. Wood  
Harrison E. Morton

1893-'94-'95

Samuel P. Hallock, Chairman  
Artemas C. Smith  
Charles H. Baldwin

# Centennial

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1896	1905
Andrew J. Scarlett, Chairman Charles H. Baldwin Edward A. Cowee	John C. Hastings, Chairman, 3 yrs Warren E. Gammell* Aaron Goodale*
1897	1906
Edward A. Cowee, Chairman Charles H. Baldwin Joseph L. Howe	Aaron Goodale, Chairman, 3 yrs. Warren E. Gammell* Walter E. Chapman, 2 yrs.
1898	1907
Andrew J. Scarlett, Chairman Charles H. Baldwin John C. Hastings	Aaron Goodale,* Chairman Walter E. Chapman* Warren E. Gammell, 3 yrs.
1899	1908
Andrew J. Scarlett, Chairman John C. Hastings Aaron Goodale	Aaron Goodale,* Chairman Warren E. Gammell* Walter E. Chapman, 3 yrs.
1900-'01-'02-'03	1909
Andrew J. Scarlett, Chairman Alexander Snow Willie B. Wood	Walter E. Chapman,* Chairman Warren E. Gammell* William C. Pierce, 3 yrs. ———
1904	*Hold over.
John C. Hastings, Chairman, 1 yr. Warren E. Gammell, 3 yrs. Aaron Goodale, 2 yrs.	

## TOWN TREASURERS.

Ezra Beaman,	1808—1811
Ezra Beaman (Jr.),	1811—1814
Barnabas Davis,	1815—1816
Ezra Beaman (Jr.),	1817
Jonathan Plimpton,	1818
Ezra Beaman (Jr.),	1819—1820
Barnabas Davis,	1821—1822
Andre Taft,	1823—1824
Francis Davis,	1825—1827
Seth White,	1828—1829
Thomas Holmes,	1830—1832

Ezikel Pierce,	1833—1837
Aaron E. Winter,	1838
Andre Taft,	1839
Ezra B. Newton,	1840—1841
Moses Brigham,	1842
Samuel Brown,	1843
Thomas Holmes,	1844—1848
Oliver B. Sawyer,	1849
Eli W. Holbrook,	1850
Dennis Harthan,	1851—1855
Oliver B. Sawyer,	1856—1861
George F. Howe,	1862—1879
Henry O. Sawyer,	1880—1883
George F. Howe,	1884—1899
Albert W. Hinds,	1900—19..

**MODERATORS AT ANNUAL TOWN MEETINGS.**

Silas Beaman,	1808
Silas Newton,	1809—1811
Paul Goodale,	1812
William Fairbank,	1813—1818
Silas Newton,	1819—1821
Robert B. Thomas,	1822—1823
John M. Smith,	1824—1825
Silas Newton,	1826—1830
John M. Smith,	1831—1833
Andre Taft,	1834
John F. Fay,	1835—1836
Ebenezer M. Hosmer,	1837—1838
Andre Taft,	1839
Ebenezer M. Hosmer,	1840—1844
David C. Murdock,	1845—1848
Benjamin F. Keyes,	1849
David C. Murdock,	1850—1851
Benjamin F. Keyes,	1852—1853
Ebenezer M. Hosmer,	1854
David C. Murdock,	1855
Benjamin F. Keyes,	1856
Joseph C. Lovell,	1857
Benjamin F. Keyes,	1858
David C. Murdock,	1859—1860
Ebenezer M. Hosmer,	1861
Joseph C. Lovell,	1862—1864

George F. Howe,	1865—1882
George H. Jefts,	1883
George F. Howe,	1884—1899
Edward A. Cowee,	1900—1902
Warren J. Merriam,	1903—1904
John A. Lowe,	1905—1906
Frank H. Baldwin,	1907—1909

**REPRESENTATIVES TO LEGISLATURE.**

Ezra Beaman,	1808—1811	
Barnabas Davis,	1812—1817	
Joseph Hinds,	1818—1819	
No representative sent,	1820—1824	
Joseph Hinds,	1825	
No representative sent,	1826	
Joseph Hinds,	1827	
No representative sent,	1828	
Joseph Hinds,	1829	
No representative sent,	1830	
Robert B. Thomas,	1831—1836	
Thomas White, Jr.,	1837	
No choice,	1838	
Benjamin F. Keyes	}	1839
Silas Walker,		
Levi Pierce,		
Dennis Harthan,		1840
Samuel Brown,		1841
Brigham Prescott,		1842
Addison Lovell,	1843—1845	
Amos Child,		1846
Eli W. Holbrook,		1847
Ebenezer M. Hosmer,	1848—1849	
Oliver B. Sawyer,	1850—1851	
David C. Murdock,		1852
Amos Childs,	1853—1854	
		1855—1856

Since 1857 West Boylston has been districted with other towns for the election of a representative.

Windsor N. White,	1859
Linus M. Harris,	1862
David C. Murdock,	1864
Wallace McFarland,	1867

Stephen Holt,	1870
Joseph W. Cross,	1872
George F. Howe,	1875
Henry Pierce,	1876
Henry O. Sawyer,	1880
Horatio Houghton,	1884
Harrison E. Morton,	1886—1887
Edward A. Cowee,	1895—1896
Warren E. Gammell,	1905

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE.**

Until the year 1892 the School Committee varied in numbers. For some years previous to that date it had been composed of twelve members, a number too large to insert for each year in this work. It should be remembered, however, that the duties of the School Committee in the earlier days were more exacting than at present, and West Boylston was particularly fortunate during that period to have a number of clergymen and physicians to direct the course of study, a duty now largely delegated to the superintendent of schools.

A list of those who served actively on the school committee previous to 1892 for any considerable length of time follows:

Francis Davis,	1820-1824, '26, '29, '36
Rev. Leonard Tracy,	1838-1849
Rev. Joseph W. Cross,	1840-1859, '62-'66, '69-'80
Dr. George W. Warren,	1847-1850, '55, '57, '59-'61, '66-'69
Joseph C. Lovell,	1868-1869, '74-'82
David C. Murdock,	1868-1887
George F. Howe,	1868-1890
David R. Lamson,	1870-1878
Joseph M. Lord,	1872-1890
Rev. William W. Parker,	1880-1888

**1892**

Thomas Harlow,\* Chairman  
 Samuel S. Russell\*  
 Albert W. Hinds, 3 yrs.

**1893**

Thomas Harlow, Chairman, 3 yrs  
 Samuel S. Russell\*  
 Albert W. Hinds\*



1894

Thomas Harlow,\* Chairman  
Albert W. Hinds\*  
Dr. David B. Lovell, 3 yrs.

1902

Warren J. Merriam,\* Chairman  
Albert W. Hinds, 3 yrs.  
Rev. Julius B. Robinson\*

1895

Thomas Harlow,\* Chairman  
Dr. David B. Lovell\*  
William R. Walker, 3 yrs.

1903

Warren J. Merriam,\* Chairman  
Albert W. Hinds\*  
Rev. Julius B. Robinson, 3 yrs.

1896

Dr. David B. Lovell,\* Chairman  
William R. Walker\*  
Francis H. Rice, 3 yrs.

1904

Rev. Julius B. Robinson,\* Chairman  
Arthur A. Caldwell, 3 yrs.  
Albert W. Hinds\*

1897

Dr. David B. Lovell, Chairman, 3 yrs.  
William R. Walker\*  
Francis H. Rice\*

1905

Rev. John E. Dodge, Chairman, 1 yr.  
Albert W. Hinds, 3 yrs.  
Arthur A. Caldwell\*

1898

Dr. David B. Lovell,\* Chairman  
Albert W. Hinds, 1 yr.  
Warren J. Merriam, 3 yrs.

1906

Rev. John E. Dodge, Chairman, 3 yrs.  
Albert W. Hinds, 2 yrs.  
Arthur A. Caldwell\*

1899

Dr. David B. Lovell,\* Chairman  
Albert W. Hinds, 3 yrs.  
Warren J. Merriam\*

1907

Rev. Ernest A. Royal, Chairman, 2 yrs.  
Emory A. Bacon, 3 yrs.  
Albert W. Hinds\*

1900

Warren J. Merriam,\* Chairman  
Albert W. Hinds\*  
Rev. Julius B. Robinson, 3 yrs.

1908

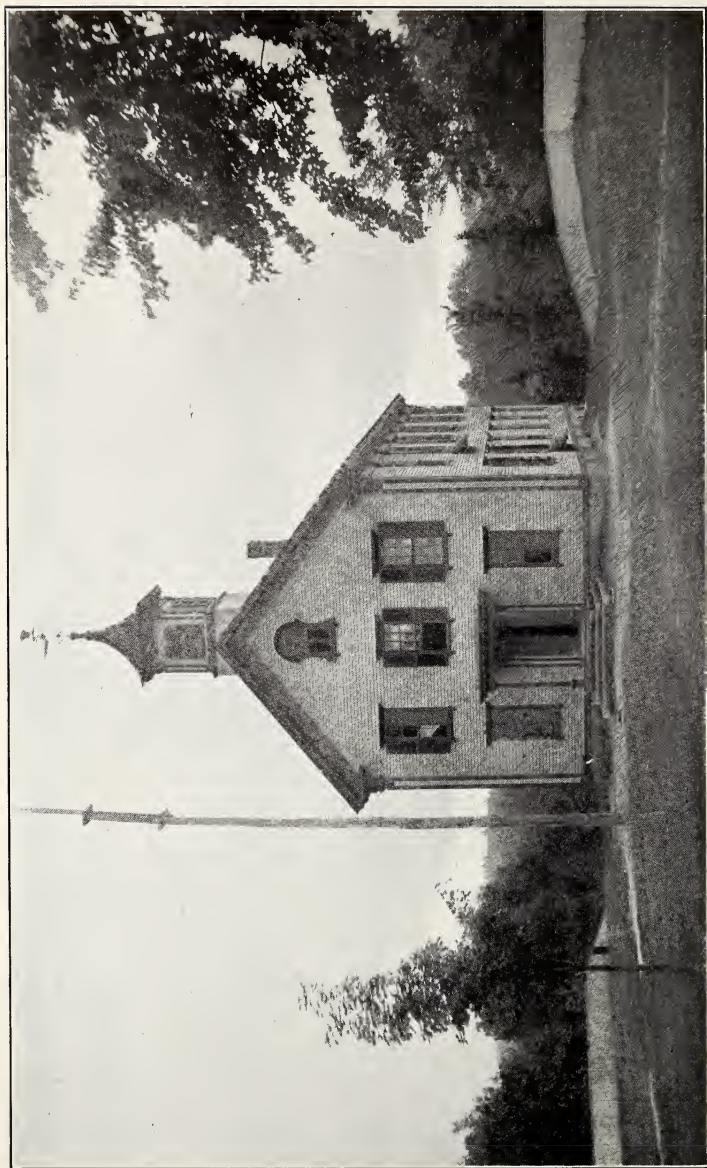
Rev. Ernest A. Royal,\* Chairman  
Albert W. Hinds, 3 yrs.  
Emory A. Bacon\*

1901

Warren J. Merriam, Chairman, 3 yrs.  
Albert W. Hinds\*  
Rev. Julius B. Robinson\*

1909

Emory A. Bacon,\* Chairman  
Albert W. Hinds\*  
Rev. Ernest A. Royal, 3 yrs.



THE OLD HIGH SCHOOL

NAMES OF GRADUATES OF THE WEST BOYLSTON HIGH SCHOOL.

1883

Bullard, Marie Abbie  
Pierce, Flora Melissa  
Pierce, Sadie Bond  
Sturtevant, Julia Arnold

1884

Doyle, Mary Ann  
Goodale, Alice Almira  
Lesure, Waldo Haskell  
Reed, Charles Walter  
Waite, Edgar Francis

1885

Drake, Llewellyn Henry  
Haskins, Mary Emerson  
Luce, Hattie Emma

1886

Harris, Watie Louise  
Hastings, Annie Gertrude  
Holmes, Wallace Eugene  
Newton, Grace Lamson  
Prescott, Nettie Matella

1887

Boynton, Walter Grant  
Browne, Albert Watson  
Bullard, Samuel Eli  
Fisher, Mabelle Edith  
Hall, Lena J.  
McCarthy, Nellie Elizabeth  
Warner, Grace Mandana

1888

Baldwin, William Sanford  
Berry, Arthur Henry  
Berry, Grace Ella  
Chase, Mary Celinda  
Haskins, Edith Lydia  
Knight, Dora Fay  
Pierce, Harry Lincoln  
Shepard, Grace Florence

1889

Flagg, Daisy Emma  
Morton, Addie Frances  
Sargent, Alice Frances  
Toombs, Eva Frances

1890

Anderson, Elizabeth May  
Berry, Arthur H.  
Daly, Gertrude Estella  
Fletcher, Bertha Lillian  
Lynch, John Sarsfield  
Mitchell, Alice Leah  
Moran, Katie Ann  
Waite, Annie Mabel  
Waite, Louise Elma

1891

Bosworth, Eug. Manning  
Bullard, Albert Ovington  
Chase, Lura Burnette  
Hartigan, Eva Rosalie  
Hastings, Foster L.  
Jackson, Henry Winter  
Lynch, Matilda Catherine  
Sargent, Mattie Augusta

1892

Broad, Mabel Stella  
Butler, Mabel Louise  
Lawrence, Lutie Smith  
Moran, Eliza Jane  
Ryan, Etta M.  
Walker, Alice Elizabeth  
Walker, Lena Ada

1893

Shepard, Hattie Isabel  
Tobin, Michael Anthony  
Moran, Eliza J. (Post Graduate)

## 1894

Buck, Lila Ollie  
 Richard, Mary Emma  
 Tower, Freeman Augustus

## 1895

Harrington, Ruth Abbie  
 Lynch, Theobald Andrew  
 McCarthy, Annie Theresa  
 Rice, Jessie Mae  
 Ross, Alida Louise  
 Warner, Lydia Porter

## 1896

Boynton, Florence Christine  
 Brown, Ruth Mabel  
 Burns, Marguerite  
 Gammell, Edith Florence  
 Goodale, Leon Arvine  
 Leonard, Annetta Theresa  
 O'Toole, Kathryn Agnes  
 Styles, Mande Asenath

## 1897

Buck, Alice Elmina  
 Daly, Clara Frances  
 Greeley, Mabelle Leona  
 Kershaw, Polly  
 Lynch, Carolyn Idella  
 Maney, Kathryn Maria  
 Rice, Charles Franklin  
 Rice, Edward Francis  
 Ryan, Kathryn Pauline  
 Sargent, Jennie Vylenea  
 Sawyer, Ella Louise  
 Whiting, Winfred Holt

## 1898

H. Fay Baldwin  
 Helen R. Goodell  
 Alice M. Lovell  
 Elsie M. Phelps  
 Arthur K. Smith  
 Joseph N. Snow  
 May E. Wilson

## 1899

John H. Bassett  
 Herbert M. Cheever  
 Florence E. Fairbanks  
 Netina E. Fairbank  
 Walter O'Toole  
 Marion E. Phelps  
 Susie E. Sargent  
 Angeline St. Onge  
 Delora E. Styles  
 Ruby E. Warfield

## 1900

Carrie Angenette Bacon  
 Walter Andrew Bowen  
 Carleton Allen Cook  
 Arthur Stanley Ovenden  
 Cora Thisbee Peck  
 Jessie Freeman Peirce  
 George Asa Robinson  
 Lillian Gertrude Ryan

## 1901

Edna Caroline Baldwin  
 Eva Florence Bird  
 Frederick Howard Brown  
 James Wilbur Erving Cheever  
 Mary Caroline Howe  
 Vera Amica Johnson  
 Walter Ernest Robbins  
 Arthur Hubbard Sawyer  
 Marion Harris Sheldon  
 Helen Reed Warner

## 1902

Erma I. Bosworth  
 Hattie L. Goodale

## 1903

Frances Evelyn Goodale  
 Elizabeth Mary Moran  
 Kathryn Anna Moran  
 Philip Alan Houghton  
 Edwin Reed Warfield

## 1904

Edith E. Burpee  
Joseph Cavanaugh  
Teresa Cavanaugh  
Mina Chace  
Chester Cook  
Marion C. Houghton  
Marion C. Johnson  
George M. Lawrence  
Ralph H. Ovenden  
A. Clayton Parker

## 1905

Roland K. Parker  
Mary V. Smith

## 1906

Byron W. Barker  
Oscar Burns  
Frank C. Cheever  
Corinne M. Ryan  
Andrew J. Scarlett, Jr.  
Arthur F. Snow  
A. Carrol Warfield

## 1907

Leta Fairbank  
Helen Caroline Mixer  
Helen Gertrude Moran  
Blanche Marion Robbins  
Otis Chaffin Shelden

## 1908

Annie Matilda Baneroff  
Bertha Luella Bosworth  
Harold Newell Keith  
Grace Lillian Mixer  
James Edward Ryan  
Louise Marsh Warner

## 1909

Ernest Foster Chase  
Charles Henry Cummings  
Aaron Goodale, Jr.  
Gladys Maria Howe  
Clarence Whitman Huntington  
Raymond Samuel Huntington  
David Joseph Lowe  
Anna Elisabeth Muzzy  
Bertha Alice Muzzy  
Earle Warren Reed  
Myrtis Florella Smith



## SERGEANT THOMAS PLUNKETT,

## The Armless Hero of the Battle of Fredricksburg.

The subject of this sketch was born in the County of Mayo, Ireland, October 13, 1839, and came to America in 1844 with his parents, Francis and Catherine Plunkett. When our great civil war began, he with his brother Francis were employed in the boot-shop of John S. Cutting in West Boylston, and when President Lincoln issued his call in 1861, for men to enlist in their country's service for three years, Thomas, after having been a resident of West Boylston about ten years, responded and was mustered in August 23, 1861, at the age of 21, and assigned to Company E, 21st Regiment, Massachusetts Vounteers. This regiment was organized at Camp Lincoln, as it was called, located on the old Agricultural Fair Grounds in the City of Worcester. That historic spot, now covered with attractive and substantial homes, occupied by a later generation who little realize that the dust on which they daily tread, was once the scene of many a solemn parting of friends, brothers, sisters, and the sacred ties of home, in many instances, never to be united in life.

Friday morning of the same day our subject was mustered in; marching orders were issued; and after the ceremonies of the presentation of a regimental flag, by Hon. Alexander Bullock in behalf of the ladies of Worcester, and the sad farewells spoken, the regiment marched to the Norwich depot and boarding the train in waiting, started at about five of the clock in the afternoon for the front.

September 17th, at Annapolis, the regiment was again mustered in on account of some previous informality, and was actively engaged in the battles of Roanoke Island, February 8, 1862; Camden, April 19, 1862; Manassas, August 29 and 30, 1862, where private Plunkett, it is to be presumed, was always at his post of duty performing fearlessly whatever task fell to his lot. But it was not till the battle of Chantilly, September 1, 1862, after having been absent from home little more than a year that his name came prominently before the public eye.

On that eventful 1st of September the regiment went into action with four hundred men; 38 were killed, 76 wounded, and 26 taken prisoners.

When the respite came and those who were able to withdraw were out of the woods, a roll-call disclosed the missing ones.

Private Plunkett, finding his friend Louis Moultrie among the missing, went back without his musket with the hope of finding him if wounded. Moving along with great caution, he discovered a rebel picket standing behind a tree; Plunkett realized in an instant that if in turning back he attracted attention, death was likely to be his portion. With one quick bound he was at the rebel's back and holding fast both his arms. The rebel, in his fright, dropped his musket which Plunkett, while pretending to cover him with a revolver, secured, and warning him not to make a

noise under penalty of death, marched his prisoner into the Union camp at the point of the bayonet, for which exploit he was rewarded with a sergeant's commission.

Thirteen days later, September 14th, occurred the battle of South Mountain. During this engagement, Plunkett discovered a severely wounded officer sitting and leaning against a barn, who asked him for a cup of water, which he most gladly furnished, and during a moment's conversation learned that this officer was from Ohio. When President Butherford B. Hayes visited Worcester, Sergeant Plunkett recognizing the features of the man he had saved, interviewed the President, and relating the incident, learned that it was the future President of the United States for whom he had done that act of kindness, and received from President Hayes, as he grasped the stump of his right arm with both hands, such cordial and sincere expressions of gratitude as only a true soldier can give another.

The 17th came the battle of Antietam, where the regiment entered the engagement with one hundred and fifty men and lost in killed and wounded forty-five.

The next severe engagement occurred at Fredericksburg, December 13, 1862. The 21st regiment had two hundred men in action; 13 were killed and 52 wounded, one taken prisoner. The following is taken from the official report made by Colonel Clarn, December 16th:

"The 2nd brigade was now ordered to the front and formed in double line of battle most gallantly and steadily moved across the plain, swept by the destructive fire of the enemy. When about sixty rods from the city, the color sergeant Collins of Company A, was shot and fell to the ground. Sergeant Plunkett of Company E instantly seized the colors and carried them promptly forward to the farthest point reached by our troops during the battle. When the regiment had commenced the delivery of its fire, about forty rods from the position of the rebel infantry, a shell was thrown with fatal accuracy at the colors, which were again brought to the ground, wet with the life-blood of the brave Plunkett, both of whose arms were carried away.

"Color Corporal Olney of Company H immediately raised the glorious flag and defiantly bore it through the remainder of the day."

A piece of the shell struck Plunkett's right arm, nearly severing it from his body, it then struck a book with thick covers, which that morning he had picked up in Fredericksburg and buttoned inside his vest; that book turned the course of the deadly missile a little, which doubtless saved his life, but it struck the left arm above the wrist. At the improvised field-hospital the case was pronounced hopeless, so that he was unattended for two hours or more before his arms were amputated and dressed. He, however, rallied rapidly, and on Christmas Day, December 25, at noon, the regiment turned out to escort Sergeant Plunkett and several other wounded men from the field-hospitals to the railway station, en route for Aquia

Creek and Washington. There was no grumbling at this duty, although exceedingly tired and standing at present arms as the gallant sufferers were carried along the line to the cars, there was many a warm goodbye and uttered prayer for their recovery. He was taken to Washington, where he remained in Emery Hospital until May, 1863, when he started for home. At New York he was given an enthusiastic reception and it was repeated in Boston, also at his home in West Boylston, where the citizens generally turned out to do him honor. Congress awarded him a medal for his bravery and he was also granted a total disability pension of seventy-two dollars a month.

In 1879 he was appointed a messenger at the State House and given charge of the coat room. Was also for a time messenger at the Custom House. February 1st, 1864, at a time when the 21st regiment was enjoying their veteran furlough, a street parade was made in Worcester. The 25th, the 57th, the State Guard, Highland Cadets and the Fire Department performed escort duty. The streets were covered with ice, snow and slush. Sergeant Plunkett declined to ride with other disabled men, but marched just in advance of the battle stained and shattered flags of his regiment in a blinding snow and rain storm for more than an hour.

At Mechanics Hall, Hon. Alexander Bullock delivered an eloquent address of welcome to these veterans of the war, in which reference was made to the plucky color bearer, Sergeant Plunkett, who was present and received a royal ovation. For some time Mr. Plunkett was far from being a well man, and by spells was a great sufferer, although he rarely uttered any complaint; occasionally he might be heard to say, "I am all right, but my stomach." He received the best of medical care and gradually improved in health and was discharged from the army March 9, 1864.

In 1865 he married Miss Helen Lorimer, and five years later removed to Worcester. At the conclusion of that marriage ceremony he overheard a careless remark drop from the lips of a bystander that made a lasting impression on his mind. It reflected on the ability of an armless man to support a wife, and he there inwardly pledged his best endeavors to provide for his wife, and most faithfully he kept his vow, leaving at his decease his widow and two sons in comfortable circumstances. During the early part of 1885, the warning came that the end of his eventful life was approaching. The position as Messenger at the State House was given up, and after a few weeks of suffering, without a murmur of complaint, on the morning of March 10th, 1885, he passed on to be numbered with the great army that preceded him.

Funeral services were held in Mechanics Hall, which was thronged with relatives, friends and the citizens at large, anxious to pay their last tribute to the patient yet courageous Sergeant Tom Plunkett.

At his request services in the hall were conducted by Rev. George S. Ball, who was Chaplain of the 21st Regiment, Rev. Joseph W. Cross of West Boylston, and Rev. J. F. Lovering, Chaplain of the Grand Army. Singing was by children from the public schools of the city.

But the solemn act of committing to the tomb that lifeless body failed to completely silence the disposition, the eagerness still felt to do honor to that intrepid, self-reliant yet modest man, who sacrificed so much for his country's cause.

On Friday evening, November 22, 1895, exercises attending the presentation of a memorial portrait of Sergeant Thomas Plunkett to the Worcester County Mechanics Association, was held in their spacious hall. The portrait was the gift of his brother Francis, an honorable member of the Worcester County Bar, also a member of the Board of Aldermen for the City of Worcester.

The late United States Senator, Hon. George F. Hoar, was expected to make the presentation, but as the day drew near, he, on account of failing health, felt obliged to decline, and Colonel William S. B. Hopkins officiated. An appropriate programme had been arranged. Mr. Edward F. Tolman, president of the Association, received the portrait. Other speakers were Rev. Dr. Conaty, now Bishop Conaty, and the late Rev. George S. Ball.

The audience filled the great hall to the very doors, and the masterly addresses were received with unusual satisfaction. The fine, life-like portrait, the work of Mr. J. Madison Stone, occupies a conspicuous place upon the wall of that attractive hall, reminding the thousands of on-lookers of the faithful, courageous Thomas Plunkett.

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## Civil War Record.

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The following is a list, as far as has been ascertained, of those who went into the army to serve in the war of the Rebellion from the town of West Boylston or were counted on its quota.

There had been a company of militia in town previous to the Civil War, many of those members enlisted with Sergeant Plunkett in Company E, 21st Regiment.

Up to March 1, 1866, the town had paid in bounties, expenses of recruiting, uniforms, etc., the sum of \$22,784.90, while the Ladies Patriotic Society had forwarded clothes and supplies to the soldiers to the value of \$1,063.17.

NAMES.	When Enlisted.	Regiment	Position.	Discharged	REMARKS.
Alexander, F. M.	Jan., '65				
Allen, Joseph O.	Sept. 7, '64	10th B.	Private	June 9, '65	Southern recruit.
Anderson, John E.	May 16, '61	2nd	Sergeant	Dec. 30, '65	Close of war.
Anderson, John E. B.	Dec. 30, '61	2nd	Private	July 14, '65	Close of war.
Bachelder, Arthur B.	Aug. 9, '62	36th	Private	June 8, '65	Close of war.
Baldy, Emory	July 15, '64	42nd reorg.	Private	Nov. 11, '64	For 100 days.
Barstley, George	July 15, '64	42nd reorg.	Private	Nov. 11, '64	For 100 days.
Bearse, William	May 16, '61	2nd	Private	May 30, '62	Discharged as an alien.
Begley, John	Mar. 16, '64	2nd cav.	Private		Reported as deserter, October, '64
Beglow, Charles F.	July 30, '63	34th	Private		Contacted as deserter, died at home, Feb. 12, '64
Beglow, George L.	Sept. 27, '61	21st	Private		Died at Andersonville; prisoner Oct., '64.
Beglow, William W.	May 16, '61	2nd	Private	Mar. 18, '63	
Blunt, William H.	Sept. 27, '61	21st	Private	June 8, '65	W'd. and died at Gettysburg, July 15, '63.
Bolton, Henry E.	Aug. 9, '62	36th	Private	June 8, '65	Close of war.
Bond, Andrew S.	May, '61	Seaman	Private	Nov. 14, '65	1 year on gunboat "South Carolina."
Bradford, Pelham	Jan. 4, '64	4th cav.	Private	July 26, '62	Close of war.
Bridges, Jacob	Nov. 19, '64	21st	Captain	Jan. 26, '62	Resigned.
Brigham, Amos W.	Nov., '64				Southern recruit.
Broad, George	Jan. 4, '64	4th cav.	Lieutenant	Nov. 14, '65	Close of war.
Brown, George	Oct., '61	11th conn.	Private		Lost at sea.
Brown, James	Feb., '65		Private		Close of war.
Brown, Justus	May 19, '61	3rd bat. rifles	Private		Lost an arm at Newbern, 1862. Discharged.
Brown, Justus	July, '61	21st	Private	Aug. 3, '61	Southern recruit.
Brown, William N.	Aug. 9, '62	36th	Private	Oct. 3, '62	Served under Major Devens.
Brown, John	July, '64	42nd reorg.	Private		Wounded at Newbern, March 14, 1862.
Bruno, John	Jan. 19, '65	61st	Private	July 16, '65	Deserted, May 26, 1865.
Bruno, William	Aug. 19, '64	4th H. A.	Private	July 17, '65	Close of war.
Burns, Benjamin W.	Sept. 30, '62	61st	Private	July 27, '63	Close of war.
Burns, William H.	Oct. 8, '63	2 H. A.	Private	Jan. 22, '65	Discharged for disability.
Cadrett, Andrew	July 20, '62	15th	Private		Reported as deserter, January, 1864.
Caldwell, John	July 15, '64	42nd reorg.	Private	Nov. 11, '64	For 100 days.
Chase, Hanson	July 19, '62	34th	Private	June 16, '65	Close of war.
Chase, James H.	July, '61	21st	Private		Discharged for disability.
Chase, William P.	May 16, '61	2nd	Private	Jan., '62	Wounded at Antietam, Sept. 17, 1862.
Childs, Henry W.	July, '64	42nd reorg.	Private	Nov. 23, '62	For 100 days.
Childs, Isaac	May 16, '61	42nd	Private		Killed at Antietam, Sept. 17, 1862.
Christon, Nicholas	July 16, '61	13th	Private		Killed August 28, 1862.
Clegg, Calvin	Dec., '64	2nd cav.	Private		
Cleveland, Charles M.	July 25, '62	34th	Sergeant	Nov. 24, '62	Southern recruit.
Clough, Richard H.	Feb. 4, '65	56th	Private	July 12, '65	For disability.



NAMES.	When Enlisted.	Regiment	Position.	Discharged	REMARKS.
Colvin, Frederick	May 16, '61	2nd	Private		
Colvin, Benoni H.	Sept. 29, '61	42nd	Private		Killed at Winchester, May 24, 1862.
Conant, Harvey	Feb. 13, '62	15th	Private	Jan. 7, '63	Con'd fever and died at home Aug. 12 1863.
Connot, James	May 13, '61	1st bat. rifles	Corporal	Aug. 3, '63	For disability.
Connot, James	Aug. 13, '62	50th	Sergeant	Aug. 24, '63	Served under Major Devens.
Connot, James	July 22, '62	42nd reorg.	Lieutenant	Nov. 11, '64	Expiration of service.
Cook, James E.	Aug. 25, '62				For 100 days. Camp Day.
Coombes, Stephen A.	Jan. 9, '65	25th	Private	July 12, '65	Close of war.
Copping, Louis T.	Jan. 18, '64	7 L. B.	Private		Reported as deserter March 3, 1864.
Crawford, William J.	Sept. 29, '62	42nd	Corporal	Aug. 20, '63	Expiration of service.
Cronon, Timothy	Aug. 15, '64	42nd H. A.	Private	June 17, '65	Close of war.
Curtis, Christopher A.	July 19, '61	21st	Corporal	Jan. 1, '64	Expiration of service.
Curtis, Christopher A.	Jan. 1, '64		Corporal	Sept. 24, '64	Close of war.
Daley, Joseph	July 19, '61	21st	Private	Jan. 1, '64	
Daley, Joseph	Jan. 2, '64	30th	Private	June 8, '65	Close of war.
Davine, Thomas	Feb. 4, '65	1st H. A.	Private		
Devise, Simeon	Aug. 15, '64	Navy	Private	Nov. 10, '65	Sub. for Oliver M. Spofford.
Dinsmore, George W.	Jan. 5, '64	7 L. B.	Private	Nov. 20, '65	Close of war.
Dinsmore, William	Aug. 15, '64	Navy	Private		
Donleary, William	Aug. 15, '64	Navy	Private		Sub. for Edward Howe.
Drin wine, Frank	Sept. 29, '62	42nd	Private	Aug. 20, '63	Expiration of service.
Drury, Levi A.	Sept. 7, '64	4th H. A.	Private	June 17, '65	Expiration of service.
Dusoe, Peter	Aug. 15, '64	4th H. A.	Private	June 17, '65	Close of war.
Esterbrook, Joseph F.	Dec., '62	63rd	Private		Died in New York, January 4, 1863.
Farley, Bernard O.	Feb. 6, '65		Private		Engineer Corps.
Farrell, Michael	Jan. 5, '64	7 L. B.	Private	June 17, '65	Reported as deserter.
Fayweather, George T.	Aug. 19, '64	4 H. A.	Captain	June 17, '65	Close of war.
Ferrago, Louis	Aug. 19, '64	4 H. A.	Private	Jan. 2, '64	Close of war.
Fisher, Jeremiah	July 19, '61	25th	Private	Sept. 1, '65	Re-enlisted for Sterling, January, 1864.
Fitzpatrick, Thomas	Dec. 7, '63	2 H. A.	Private		
Fitzpatrick, Patrick	Sept. 29, '62	42nd	Private		
Flagg, Charles	Dec. 31, '63	4 cav.	Private	May 27, '65	Died in service, July 31, 1863.
Fletcher, Edward L.	April 18, '61	3 N. Y.	Private	May 17, '65	For disability.
Fletcher, Edward L.	Jan. 4, '64	4 cav.	Sergeant	Nov. 14, '65	Expiration of service.
Ford, Stephen	Feb. 2, '65	24th	Private	Jan. 20, '66	Close of war.
Foster, Henry S.	Jan. 26, '64	7 L. B.	Private	Nov. 10, '65	Close of war.
Gaffney, James	Aug., '64	Navy	Private		Sub. for George W. Matthews.
Gaffney, John			Private		Seaman, ass'd. by the State.
Gallagher, Hugh	July 19, '61	21st	Private	Mar. 12, '63	Wounded at Fredericksburg.
Garrity, John H.	July, '64	42nd reorg.	Private		For 100 days.
Garrity, John H.	Jan. 5, '65		Private		
Gately, Michael	Jan. 7, '64	7 L. B.	Private	Nov. 10, '65	Close of war.
Gatchell, Harlow	June, '61	15th	Private	Sept., '62	Wounded at Antietam, died in hospital.

NAMES.	When Enlisted.	Regiment	Position.	Discharged	REMARKS.
Gifford, John	July 10, '63	3 H. A.	Private	Sept. 18, '65	Seaman, ass'd. by State.
Goodale, J. Judson					Close of war.
Graves, William					Seaman, ass'd. by State.
Green, James					Seaman, ass'd. by State.
Green, John					Seaman, ass'd. by State.
Green, Lorenzo B.	Sept. 16, '61	25th	Private	Jan. 7, '62	For disability.
Haley, Henry	May 15, '61	2 L. B.	Private	Sept. 15, '62	Seaman, ass'd. by State.
Haley, Samuel, Jr.	Sept. 30, '61	25th	Private	Jan. 2, '64	For disability.
Hall, John D.	Jan. 3, '64	25th	Corporal	Sept., '65	Severely wounded.
Hall, John D.	Aug. 8, '62	34th	Private		Discharged at Camp Day.
Hardy, Albert	July, '64	42nd reorg.	Private	Jan. 14, '65	For 100 days.
Hartegan, James	Mar. 21, '62	42nd	Private	Aug. 20, '63	For disability.
Hartegan, Michael	Sept. 20, '62	42nd	Private	Aug. 20, '63	For 100 days.
Harthan, George H.	Sept. 20, '62	42nd	Private	Aug. 20, '63	For 100 days.
Harthan, George H.	Sept. 20, '62	42nd	Private	Aug. 20, '63	For 100 days.
Harthan, Lyman	Sept. 20, '62	42nd	Private	Aug. 20, '63	For 100 days.
Hartigan, John E.	July 22, '64	3rd bat. rifles	Corporal	Nov. 11, '64	For 100 days.
Haskins, William L. G.	May 19, '62	51st	Private	Aug. 3, '61	Served under Major Devens.
Haskins, William L. G.	Aug. 20, '62	51st	Sergeant	July 27, '63	Expiration of service.
Hastings, Thomas	Aug. 15, '64	4 H. A.	Sergeant	June 17, '65	Close of war.
Hays, Thomas	Feb. 6, '63				Engineer Corps.
Hennenway, William C.	July 12, '61	15th	Private	July 28, '64	Close of war.
Hennenway, William C.	Sept. 18, '61	25th	Private	Dec. 17, '63	Close of war.
Hickey, William	May 19, '63	3rd bat. rifles	Private	Aug. 3, '61	Seaman, ass'd. by State.
Hicks, Ephraim	Jan. 5, '64	4 cav.	Private	Sept. 7, '65	For disability.
Hilch, Charles H.	Sept. 20, '62	42nd	Private	Aug. 20, '63	Expiration of service.
Hobson, John H.	Sept. 20, '62	42nd	Private	Aug. 20, '63	Expiration of service.
Hobson, Edwin	Aug. 25, '64	4 H. A.	Private	June 17, '65	Close of war.
Horton, John H.	July, '61	21st	Private		Closed at Newbern, N. C., April 6, 1862.
Horton, William H.	Aug. 13, '62	36th	Sergeant	June 8, '65	Close of war.
Hosmer, Addison A.	Oct. 24, '61	28th	Major		Assistant Judge advocate.
Hosmer, Charles	May, '61	Seaman			
Hosmer, George B. J.	May 16, '61	2nd	Private		Died at Newbern, N. C., 1862.
Hosmer, Leonard T.	Aug. 12, '62	21st	Sergeant	Dec. 6, '63	Wounded, died at Washington, June 22, 1864.
Houghton, Harlan P.	Aug. 23, '62	34th	Lieutenant	July 5, '65	Close of war.
Houghton, James	Jan. 23, '64	34th	Private	Jan. 20, '66	Close of war.
Howe, George C.	July, '64	42nd reorg.	Private		For 100 days.
Hunt, Andrew J.					Seaman, ass'd. by State.
Hunt, Franklin L.	Aug. 8, '62	27th	Surgeon	Sept. 18, '65	Killed November 13, 1862, by guerillas.
Huntley, Charles R.	July 27, '63	3 H. A.	Private	Aug. 3, '61	Close of war.
Huston, Edward	May 19, '61	3rd bat. rifles	Private		

NAMES.	When Enlisted.	Regiment	Position.	Discharged	REMARKS.
Hyde, William	May 16, '61	2nd	Private	Nov., '64	For disability.
Jennings, John F.	July, '61	2nd	Private	Nov. 1, '62	Dis. after few months service.
Jones, Francis F.	Sept. 29, '62	42nd	Private	Aug. 20, '63	Expiration of service.
Juhen, William	Mar. 7, '62	21st	Private	Jan. 17, '63	Wounded, South Mound, September, 1862.
Kane, James	Feb. 6, '65	Navy			
Keup, Henry	July, '64	42nd reorg.	Private		For 100 days.
Keyes, Jonas C.	Dec. 7, '63	2 H. A.	Corporal	Aug. 16, '65	D. at Andersonville, August 18, 1864.
Keyes, Leonard	July 22, '62	34th	Private		Close of war.
Kidder, Charles H.	Jan. 4, '64	7 L. B.	Private	Jan. 14, '65	D. in service, November 9, 1864.
King, Nelson	Feb. 10, '64	4 cav.	Private	Aug. 20, '63	Close of war.
King, Oliver	Sept. 29, '62	42nd	Private	July 16, '65	Expiration of service.
King, Oliver	Jan. 17, '65	61st	Private	May 1, '65	Close of war.
King, Oliver	Feb. 19, '62	15th	Private	May 1, '65	Expiration of service.
Lafin, Hiram	May 8, '61	3rd bat. rifles	Private	Aug. 3, '61	Served under Major Devens.
Lamb, Edward P.	Feb. 5, '62	18 Wisconsin	Private	Mar., '65	Expiration of service.
Lamb, Edward P.					Seaman, ass'd. by State.
Lamb, S. H.	Aug. 4, '63	2 H. A.	Private	Sept. 1, '65	Close of war.
Lawrence, Lewis C.	Jan. 20, '64	7 L. B.	Private	Oct. 5, '65	Close of war.
Lawrence, Sylvester A.	Aug. 15, '64	4 H. A.	Private	June 17, '65	Close of war.
Leane, Lovell A.	Aug. 13, '62	36th	Corporal	June 8, '65	Close of war.
Logan, John M.	April 1, '62	25th	Private		
Logan, John M.	Jan. 3, '64	25th	Private		
Lombard Jackson	Sept. 29, '62	42nd	Corporal	July 13, '65	Close of war.
Long, Jeremiah	May 19, '63	3rd bat. rifles	Private	Aug. 20, '63	Expiration of service.
Long, William F.	Feb. 3, '63	2 cav.	Private	Aug. 3, '61	Served under Major Devens.
Lord, John	Feb. 25, '62	34th	Private	July 16, '63	Expiration of service.
Loring, Henry A.	Oct. 17, '61	25th	Private	Dec. 17, '63	Close of war.
Loring, Henry A.	Dec. 18, '61	42nd reorg.	Private	July 13, '65	Close of war.
Lorimer, Alex	Jan. 12, '65	Navy			
Luce, Francis N.	Sept. 29, '62	42nd	Corporal	Aug. 20, '63	Expiration of service.
Luce, Newman B.	Sept. 29, '62	42nd	Private	Aug. 20, '63	Served under Major Devens.
Lynch, Thomas	Dec. 7, '63	2 H. A.	Private	July 31, '65	Expiration of service.
Mahan, Frederic A.	Sept. 29, '62	42nd	Private	June 16, '63	Close of war.
Mahan, George F.	Dec. 7, '63	3 L. B.	Private	Dec. 17, '63	Close of war.
Mahan, Leonard F.	Sept. 29, '62	42nd	Private	July 13, '65	Close of war.
Mallet, Mersael	Feb. 10, '64	57th	Private		
Mallet, Napoleon	Dec. 8, '63	34th	Private	Aug. 20, '63	Expiration of service.
Marra, James	Dec. 1, '63	59th	Private	Aug. 20, '63	Expiration of service.
Marra, Thomas	July 24, '64	42nd reorg.	Private	Aug. 20, '63	D. a prisoner, Florence, Ala., Sept. 26, 1864.
Matthews, David A.	Oct. 21, '63	3 L. B.	Private	Aug. 20, '63	Expiration of service.
McDonald, Robert F.	Dec. 8, '63	3 L. B.	Private	June 12, '65	D. near N. O., July, 1863.
McDonald, John	Nov., '62	53rd	Private	June 16, '65	D. of wounds rec'd. in battle, May 20, 1864.
McGrall, John	July, '64	42nd reorg.	Dmr.	Nov. 11, '64	Wounded May 6, 1864.
				June 12, '65	For 100 days.
				Sept., '63	Close of war.
					For 100 days.

NAMES.	When Enlisted.	Regiment	Position.	Discharged	REMARKS.
McGrath, Michael	Aug. 16, '64	4 H. A.	Private	June 17, '65	Close of war.
McGrath, Thomas	Dec., '62	2 cav.	Private	Nov. 10, '65	Close of war.
McNally, William	Jan. 5, '64	7 L. B.	Private	Feb. 7, '63	D. July 28, 1864.
McRobie, James	Jan. 12, '61	15th	Private	Aug. 30, '64	For disability.
Meyan, Albert	Jan. 20, '62	15th	Private	June 17, '65	Close of war.
Mitchell, Edwin A.	Aug. 19, '61	4 H. A.	Private		Expiration of service.
Montville, Antoine, Jr.	May, '61	3rd Maine	Sergeant		Killed at Fort Steadman, Va., Mar. 23, 1865.
Morrison, Anderson	Jan., '61	5th	Private	Dec. 17, '63	Close of war.
Murdoch, Albert M.	Jan. 5, '64	25th	Captain	July 13, '65	Close of war.
Murdoch, Charles C.	Jan. 23, '62	34th	Captain	June 16, '65	Close of war.
Murdoch, George L.	Oct., '61	35th	Private	July 13, '65	Close of war.
Murdoch, William F.	Jan. 7, '63	2 H. A.	Private	Aug. 20, '63	Close of war.
Nedow, Michael	Sept. 20, '61	42nd	Private	Aug. 20, '63	Died in Baltimore, December 27, 1861.
Nedow, George B.	May 16, '61	2nd	Private	Nov. 10, '65	Close of war.
Newton, George F.	Jan. 21, '64	7 L. B.	Private	Nov. 11, '64	For 100 days.
Newton, Silas	July 18, '61	42nd reorg.	Private	April 2, '62	Trans. to regular army November, 1862.
Newton, Windsor A.	May 16, '61	2nd	Private	July 14, '65	Close of war.
Palmer, William H.	May 16, '61	2nd	Private	Aug. 20, '63	Expiration of service.
Parker, Emory	Sept. 29, '62	42nd	Private	Mar. 9, '64	Lost both arms, Fredericksburg, Dec. 13, '62.
Pinkett, Thomas	July 19, '61	21st	Sergeant	June 16, '65	Close of war.
Pollet, Simon	July 31, '62	34th	Captain	June 16, '65	Promoted to Major, 1864.
Pratt, Alonzo D.	Aug. 6, '62	34th	Captain	Mar. 28, '63	For disability.
Pratt, Charles R.	Sept. 29, '62	42nd	Private	May 4, '63	For disability.
Pratt, Samuel E.	Aug. 12, '62	21st	Private		Supposed d. in Virginia, May, 1862
Prescott, Charles K.	Feb. 19, '62	15th	Private	Aug. 20, '63	Expiration of service.
Prescott, James M.	Sept. 29, '62	42nd	Private	Dec. 30, '63	Close of war.
Prescott, James M.	May 16, '61	2nd	Private	July 14, '65	Discharged after Fredericksburg.
Prescott, William W.	Dec. 31, '63		Private	Aug. 30, '64	For disability.
Rekie, David	July, '62	2nd	Private	April 20, '63	
Rivers, Lewis	July 23, '61	15th	Private	Dec. 30, '63	
Rivers, Lewis	May 24, '61	2nd	Corporal	July 14, '65	Close of war.
Ross, William W.	Jan. 31, '63	2nd	Sergeant	July 27, '65	Expiration of service.
Ross, William W.	Sept. 1, '62	51st	Private	June 17, '65	Expiration of service.
Rowe, Melvin R.	Feb. 17, '64	4 H. A.	Private	Mar. 7, '65	Rejected at Camp Day.
Rowe, Mendall J.	Aug. 15, '62	15th	Private		
Sampson, Arthur B.	July 29, '62	42nd	Sergeant	Aug. 20, '63	Expiration of service.
Sargent, Franklin	Sept. 29, '62	42nd	Private	Jan. 1, '64	

NAMES.	When Enlisted.	Regiment	Position.	Discharged	REMARKS.
Sargent, Franklin	Jan. 2, '64	36th	Corporal	Aug. 4, '65	Wounded at Antietam.
Sargent, George W.	July 22, '64	42nd	Corporal	Nov. 11, '64	For 100 days.
Sargent, Thomas E.	July 19, '64	21st	Private	Jan. 1, '64	Expiration of service.
Sargent, Thomas E.	Jan. 1, '64	21st	Private	Sept. 24, '64	Close of war.
Sawyer, Henry O.	July 22, '64	42nd	Private	Nov. 11, '64	For 100 days.
Sawyer, Josiah G.	July 19, '64	21st	Private	Jan. 1, '64	
Sawyer, Josiah G.	Jan. 2, '64	21st	Private	Sept., '62	For disability.
Shepard, Charles, Jr.	July 19, '64	21st	Private	'63	For disability, wounded at Gettysburg.
Shepard, Emerson	Dec. 31, '61	25th	Private	Aug. 1, '64	
Shepard, Joshua G.	Aug. 23, '61	21st	Private	Jan. 27, '65	Close of war.
Shepard, Joshua G.	Jan. 1, '64	21st	Private	June 16, '65	Close of war.
Shepard, Levi F.	July 31, '62	34th	Private	June 16, '65	Close of war.
Sherman, Aaron	May 19, '61	3rd bat. rifles	Private	Aug. 3, '61	Ass d. by State.
Shevlin, John	May 19, '61	3rd bat. rifles	Private	Aug. 3, '61	
Slater, Patrick	Sept. 29, '62	42nd	Private	Aug. 20, '63	Expiration of service.
Slater, Ralph	Jan. 3, '64	53rd	Private	Feb. 10, '64	
Small, John	July 12, '61	15th	Private	Mar. 16, '63	Mortally wounded at Antietam.
Smith, Joseph T.	July 8, '61	15th	Private	Aug. 16, '65	Wounded at Ball's Bluff.
Smith, Samuel T.	July 31, '62	34th	Private	Aug. 13, '65	Close of war.
Snow, George A.	July 31, '62	25th	Private	Nov. 10, '65	Close of war.
Southerland, Lowell	Jan. 5, '64	7 L. B.	Private	Nov. 11, '64	For 100 days.
Staples, William H.	July 22, '64	42nd	Private	Nov. 11, '64	Engineer Corps.
Starveant, Emery	Feb. 6, '65		Private		Deserted, March, 1862.
Swain, George W.	July 19, '61	21st	Private	Aug. 3, '61	Killed at Newmarket, May 15, 1864.
Sylvester, Albert P.	July 31, '62	34th	Private	June 17, '66	Served under Major Devens.
Tallman, John B.	May 19, '61	3rd bat. rifles	Private	Dec. 30, '63	Close of war.
Thomas, Robert B.	Aug. 16, '64	4 H. A.	Private	July 14, '65	Close of war.
Thornton, John G.	May 17, '61	2nd	Lieutenant	Aug. 3, '61	Served under Major Devens.
Toombs, William D.	Dec. 30, '63	2nd	Lieutenant	July 24, '61	D. in service, July 12, 1864.
Toombs, William D.	May 19, '61	3rd bat. rifles	Private	Aug. 20, '63	Expiration of service.
Trask, George	May 19, '61	3rd bat. rifles	Private	Aug. 20, '63	Expiration of service.
Trask, Martin N.	Jan. 4, '64	25th	Private	Aug. 20, '63	Expiration of service.
Trask, Martin N.	Sept. 29, '62	42nd	Private	Aug. 20, '63	Expiration of service.
Truett, Charles L.	Sept. 29, '62	42nd	Private	Aug. 20, '63	Expiration of service.
Tyson, Daniel	Sept. 29, '62	42nd	Private	Aug. 20, '63	Expiration of service.
Tyler, Henry C.	Dec. 7, '63	2 H. A.	Private	Aug. 20, '63	Expiration of service.
Vansette, Nicholas	May 25, '61	2nd	Private	Aug. 20, '63	Expiration of service.
Watson, Thomas	Jan. 4, '64	34th	Private	July 16, '65	D. near Winchester, Va., July 24, 1862.
Welch, James	Feb. 24, '64	20th	Private	July 16, '65	D. prisoner, October 8, 1864.
Wellman, Newton	Aug., '62	21st	Private	July 8, '64	D. in service, June 23, 1864.
Wheeler, Alanson	Nov. 27, '61	15th	Private	July 8, '64	Neiman, ass d. by State.
Wheeler, Charles A.					Assistant surgeon, 12th regiment.



NAMES.	When Enlisted.	Regiment	Position.	Discharged	REMARKS.
Wheeler, Leunel L.	July, '61	21st	Private	Aug., '64	Expiration of service.
White, John D.	May, '61	2nd bat. rifles	Private	Aug. 3, '61	Served under Major Devens.
White, John D.	July, '61	21st	Sergeant	Aug. 3, '61	Expiration of service.
White, John D.	Sept. 7, '64	H. A.	Private	June 17, '65	Close of war.
White, Joseph	Mar. 10, '64	57th	Private		Killed, May 18, 1864.
White, Oliver L.	Feb. 9, '62	15th	Private	June 17, '65	Seaman, ass'd. by State.
White, Peter	Aug. 19, '64	2 H. A.	Private	Aug. 20, '65	Re-enlisted for Ward 7, Boston.
Whiteside, Robert	Sept. 29, '62	42nd	Private	Aug. 20, '65	Close of war.
Whiteside, Robert	Aug. 15, '64	4 H. A.	Private	June 17, '65	Expiration of service.
Whittaker, Jason D.	Sept. 22, '64	42nd	Private	Aug. 21, '65	Close of war.
Whittaker, Joseph	Jan. 4, '64	4th cav.	Private	Aug. 26, '65	For 100 days, disability.
Whittemore, Hezekiah P.	Sept. 1, '62	51st	Private	July 27, '63	Close of war.
Whittemore, Nathaniel K.	Jan. 5, '64	4th cav.	Private	Nov. 14, '65	Expiration of service.
Whittemore, Woodbury	Aug. 12, '61	21st	Private	Oct. 29, '62	Close of war.
White, Alfred M.	May 16, '63	2nd	Private		Resigned.
Wilbur, John E.	Dec., '63				D. in service, October 8, 1862.
Williams, Thomas	Feb. 3, '65	54th			Seaman, ass'd. by State.
Wilson, Bonaparte	Dec. 7, '63	2 H. A.	Private	Aug. 28, '65	Close of war.
Wilson, George H.					Seaman, ass'd. by State.
Wilson, George					D. near Harrison Landing, 1862.
Wilson, William F.					Close of war.
Wing, Harry A.	Aug. 19, '61	H. A.	Private	June 17, '65	Seaman, ass'd. by State.
Wood, Arthur G.					Expiration of service.
Wood, Ashley H.	Sept. 29, '62	42nd	Private	Aug. 20, '63	Close of war.
Wood, Jesse F.	Jan. 26, '64	7 L. B.	Private	Nov. 10, '65	Seaman, ass'd. by State.
Wood, Patrick					Seaman, ass'd. by State.
Woodley, James A.					Seaman, ass'd. by State.
Wright, Nelson	Sept. 29, '62	42nd	Wagoner		D. at New Orleans, June 5, 1863.

Names of those who were drafted in July, 1863, and furnished substitutes or paid commutation.

Cota, Joseph	Harner, Oliver
Dana, George F.	Harthan, D. Irving
Defoe, Joseph H.	Hastings, Lyman E.
Flagg, Francis	Jacobs, Alexander
Goddard, E. N.	Knight, Asa F.
Goodale, Francis E.	Lawrence, Joseph O.
	Thomas, W. Sidney
	Waite, Edward B.
	Walker, Charles H.
	Ward, James H.
	Warner, James W.
	Whittaker, E. T.

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